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Wound Essentials (ISSN 1750-7243) is published annually by Wounds UK, a Schofield Healthcare Media company, London SE1 9PG. Tel: 0207 627 1510, email: [furtherinfo@wounds-uk.com](mailto:furtherinfo@wounds-uk.com)  
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Wounds UK, a division of Schofield Healthcare Media Ltd  
1.03 Enterprise House, 1-2 Hatfields, London SE1 9PG  
Tel: 0207 627 1510; [www.wounds-uk.com](http://www.wounds-uk.com)

Printed in Great Britain by Pensord Press



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# Welcome to Wound Essentials

**The practical journal for the nurse, podiatrist, healthcare assistant, physiotherapist, occupational therapist and junior pharmacist**

Welcome to this year's *Wound Essentials* journal. I hope you continue to find it useful in your practice, and as so many of you have given me ideas for articles, I can only hope it continues to reflect your daily practice needs.

As the numbers of older people grow, many of us are seeing more patients with skin problems, whether this is age-onset eczema, skin tears and trauma (including haematoma formation and pretibial injuries), or cellulitis, which can be related to so many other conditions. Caring for the whole person is important and this includes remembering to explain to patients the cause of their problems and how they can aid healing by following the advice of clinicians.

One issue that has risen to the fore in the last two years is that of pressure damage in the dying patient, how to prevent this and whether it is even truly preventable. Included in this edition is an article explaining the term *Skin Changes at Life's End* (p76), a concept with which we are only just becoming familiar.

The Liverpool Care Pathway (LCP) is an important tool to guide all clinicians in providing quality end of life care to the dying patient. The LCP includes subjects such as whether or not to feed the dying patient, repositioning and the use of pressure-relieving equipment, all of which are essential pieces of knowledge for the clinician caring for patients with a terminal illness/condition.

Myths in wound care continue to perplex us all and how some of them get started is a continuing mystery! Hopefully some of the articles included in this issue will begin to demystify areas of wound care, such as how honey helps in wound management (p14).

Also, I am glad to announce that all previous *Wounds Essentials* articles are now available free of charge on the Wounds UK website at: [www.wounds-uk.com](http://www.wounds-uk.com)

We hope you enjoy this issue and if you have any feedback or suggestions on wound care subjects you would like to see addressed, please contact me on the e-mail address below. **WE**

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