

# Keeping up-to-date

Keeping up-to-date with advancements in the field of wound care is crucial for providing high-quality, evidence-based care. Yet finding time to stay current is a challenge in today's world of healthcare. Nevertheless, staying up-to-date is vital for accountability and is mandated for many healthcare professionals. In this editorial, I'd like to present some strategies for you to consider that could enhance your continuing professional development.

Setting aside dedicated time in your schedule for professional development and staying informed about advancements in wound care can be achieved in several ways. For example, this might involve subscribing to wound care journals and newsletters. Regularly reading articles and updates from these sources can help you stay informed about the latest research, clinical trials, and best practices in wound care. So, think about how you might be able to allocate perhaps one hour per week to this activity. Leverage technology to your advantage. Subscribe to podcasts, follow relevant social media accounts that curate updates on wound care advancements. This allows you to stay informed even during short breaks or commutes. Integrate learning into your daily practice. Use online learning platforms and resources, for example Wounds UK developed the online Tissue Viability News platform (<https://tvntv.co.uk/>), which provides videos and webcasts on a range of topics. Many educational platforms offer courses, webinars and modules specifically focused on wound care; for example the European Wound Management Association (EWMA) have a number of resources for professionals (<https://ewma.org/resources/for-professionals>). These can be accessed at your own pace and are free, making it easier to integrate learning into a busy schedule. Become a member of a wound care organisation: these often provide members with access to the latest research, guidelines, educational resources and reduced costs for attendance at conferences, for example the Society of Tissue Viability (SoTV) (<https://societyoftissueviability.org/>). Attendance at annual conferences such as Wounds UK, EWMA and SoTV can offer opportunities for networking and learning as well as an opportunity for you to showcase the work you and your colleagues are doing. Additionally, attending a conference facilitates interaction with experts in the field.

In addition to individual activities, also think about how you might foster a culture of collaboration within your workplace. This could be by sharing knowledge gleaned from the strategies discussed above, to nurture collective continuing professional with colleagues across the multidisciplinary team. This collaborative approach can help distribute the workload of staying informed and provide different perspectives on the latest advancements. Consider conducting case discussions with colleagues to review and discuss recent studies or challenging cases. This can make learning a collective and ongoing process.

Why is staying up to date with advancements in wound care so important? Healthcare professionals are accountable for making informed decisions about patient care. Keeping up to date allows you to incorporate the latest evidence and advancements into your decision-making process. Accountability in wound care includes ensuring patient safety. Staying informed about new technologies,



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treatments, and best practices helps you provide safer and more effective care, reducing the risk of complications. Healthcare professionals are accountable for adhering to professional standards and guidelines. Keeping abreast of advancements ensures that your practice aligns with the most current and recommended standards in wound care. Accountability involves a commitment to continuous improvement. Staying informed about advancements allows you to identify areas for improvement in your practice and implement changes that enhance the quality of care.

Finding time to stay updated in wound care is essential for maintaining accountability in delivering high-quality, evidence-based care. By investing in ongoing education, which can take many forms, and staying informed about advancements, healthcare professionals can fulfil their responsibility to provide the best possible care for individuals with wounds. ●



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