

Regional Round-up



All Wales Tissue Viability Nurses Forum update

The forum now consists of over 30 nurse specialists involved in tissue viability across Wales. We meet a minimum of three times a year, or more frequently if our workload dictates. Our previous endeavours have included all Wales prevalence surveys (James et al, 2010), all Wales clinical competency development, and the All Wales Guidelines for Best Practice: The Nursing Care of Patients Wearing Anti-Emboli Stockings.

As ever the forum has been busy; this time we have been working with the Continence Societies and the Infection Prevention Society to develop all Wales guidelines for the management of faecal incontinence and diarrhoea. It was the opinion of all three groups that the problem of skin maceration due to faecal incontinence was well established. In 2005, faecal managements systems (FMS) were introduced into the UK. There are at present no national guidelines available for the management of faecal incontinence with regards to FMS. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE, 2007) recommends that healthcare professionals consider a faecal collection device, as severe uncontrolled diarrhoea is a threat to skin integrity. Consequently, all three groups worked together to produce

guidance for clinical practice based upon expert consensus.

The generic guidelines contain the rationale for the document, epidemiology and definitions of the problem, the physical and psychological effects of faecal incontinence. Guidance is given on the assessment process to ensure FMS is used appropriately, including consent to treatment. Within the guidelines a flow chart provides 'at a glance' the assessment and treatment process, along with supplementary text on the indications for use and contraindications for FMS. In addition, resources, training and organisational issues are discussed to support the implementation of the guidance and introduction of a FMS strategy for healthcare establishments.

We are proud of this achievement, as this guidance is the first of its kind that has been produced jointly by continence, infection prevention and tissue viability groups. It demonstrates the multidisciplinary nature of skin care and how boundaries can be used in a dynamic fashion to clients' advantage, rather than acting as barriers and gatekeepers of resources. We were delighted to have Dr Jean White, Chief Nursing Officer for Wales to write the forward to the document and to attend its launch scheduled for 23rd March, 2011, Cardiff, all welcome. The

work was supported by an unrestricted educational grant from ConvaTec.

It is a time of change for the group, Kate Williams from Powys has moved across to a clinical role in England, Clare Morris has moved from North Wales to become a member of the clinical services team at Activa Healthcare, Menna Lloyd-Jones will be retiring at the end of May, Trudie Young has moved from North to South Wales, and we will welcome in a new chair of the group, Julie Evans, tissue viability nurse, Swansea.

We hope to continue to work alongside the Welsh Wounds Network (www.welshwoundsnetwork.org) to raise the profile of tissue viability within Wales. **WUK**

References

- James J, Evans J A, Young T, Clark M (2010) Pressure ulcer prevalence across Welsh orthopaedic units and community hospitals: surveys based on the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel minimum data set. *Int Wound J* 7(3): 147-52
- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (2007) Faecal Incontinence: the management of faecal incontinence in adults. NICE, London
- All Wales Tissue Viability Nurses Clinical Competencies. Available online at: www.agored.org.uk/default.aspx?id=238&natcode=&opusid=&qstring=tissue+viability&lookfor=1&lookin=1&level=&credit=§or=&noesw=0&lang=



If you would like to write about your regional group and what is happening in your area, please email:
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