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WOUNDS CANADA PARTNERS WITH HEALTH ESPRESSO TO CHANGE WOUND CARE IN CANADA

“Treat the patient, see the whole person, not just the wound.”

April 11, 2022 — When Linda Moss’ father was transferred to a second hospital for rehabilitation following a brain injury neurosurgery, her family only received information about the primary reason for his hospitalization: his neurological progress. Linda Moss and her family didn’t know that their father was suffering from a pressure injury that would eventually cause osteomyelitis. It was only when their father was denied a second surgery due to complications from the pressure injury that the severity of the wound was discovered.

Unfortunately, this gap in communication between health-care providers, specialists and patients is far too common in the Canadian health-care system. The complete picture of patients is seldom shared, especially when they are complex or receive care from multiple partners. This leads to a lack of timely wound care and ultimately irreversible complications that can result in amputations or even death in the case of Linda Moss’ father.

“Care teams and caregivers are essential together, and the first step in any prevention or further complications with wounds is a communicated Care Plan,” says Linda Moss.

A new partnership between national organization Wounds Canada and Medtech company Health Espresso is changing this. This partnership enables front-line clinicians, patients, policymakers, and researchers to digitize a patient’s journey and connect members of allied health teams at the right time to decrease acute and hard-to-heal wounds, reduce hospitalizations and improve patient outcomes. Leveraging this technology will also enable Wounds Canada to establish a Canadian national registry that can inform further research in wound care and provide quick and easy access to Wounds Canada’s validated tools and resources for immediate bedside action by clinicians and help support wound management by patients, especially those living in outlying communities.

“Wounds are a serious health complication that impacts the quality of life for patients while having significant economic implications on our health-care system, and the situation has only worsened under the strain of COVID-19. In many cases, hard-to-heal chronic wounds can be avoided or, if detected in the early stages, managed effectively — but we need evidence-based solutions to help us provide the safe, equitable and timely care that patients deserve in home care and across all health-care settings,” says Mariam Botros, CEO of Wounds Canada. “That’s why Wounds Canada is excited to partner with Health Espresso to offer a skin and wound care mobile app that benefits not only patients but also clinicians,

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researchers and policymakers. With the launch of this digital solution, we'll be able to improve patient care, reduce hospitalizations and lower spending on wound care while also increasing the skills and knowledge of front-line clinicians and establishing a Canadian national registry to inform further research."

"As a registered nurse and private wound care consultant in rural southwestern Ontario, providing safe, timely, equitable access to interprofessional, evidence-informed care to people living with wounds can be challenging," adds Crystal McCallum, Director of Education with Wounds Canada. "The skin and wound care mobile app that Health Espresso is developing in collaboration with Wounds Canada will address these challenges and will prove to reduce the burden of wounds and enhance the experience and outcomes of people living with wounds while enabling better use of health-care resources."

Certified by the Ontario Telehealth Network (OTN) and powered by artificial intelligence, Health Espresso's easy-to-use mobile and web-based integrative digital solution offers a connected, collaborative approach to wound care. It provides a complete digital blueprint of a patient's overall health and history, real-time vitals data, recorded notes from hospital visits, administered medication and more for timely, well-informed decision making. Unlike many standalone solutions, Health Espresso's unique collaborative approach allows for a broader view of the patient's journey with access to patient records, high-quality wound imaging and analysis tools to track healing progression and understand why a wound may not be healing correctly. It also includes built-in messaging and video tools that enable physicians, wound specialists and patients — especially those in remote or Indigenous communities — to engage in live communication within a secure environment.

"Health Espresso's digital solution is aligned with the government's target of delivering better, more connected care and improving health equity for patients, especially those in remote communities," says Founder of Health Espresso Rick Menassa. "To optimize the healing of wounds, care needs to be timely, and a structured, collaborative approach to assessment, treatment, documentation and communication based on best practices is critical for providing patients with the best possible outcomes. We are pleased to partner with Wounds Canada to offer our technology and bring their best practices, resources and training to front-line practitioners at the point of care."

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Melissa Nowakowski, Communications Specialist

Spark Centre

mnowakowski@sparkcentre.org

ABOUT HEALTH ESPRESSO

Inspired by front-line experience in home and community care, Health Espresso was created to chronicle the entire patient journey. Starting with a digital patient profile and digital care plan, Health Espresso empowers health organizations to automate intake, triage and update patient records and follow through with post-discharge remote patient monitoring for better health outcomes. Health Espresso provides a collaborative, patient-centred platform for Allied Health professionals, Primary Physicians and Hospitals for a 'one patient, one care plan' approach to care, reducing service overlaps and gaps. Its secure, connected platform integrates with EMRs and government data assets for an all-encompassing view of patient records. Health Espresso's mobile app complements its in-cloud web portal to empower physicians with real-time patient information and virtual care capability for time-sensitive decisions at the point of care, anywhere in the world. For more information, visit <https://healthesspresso.com>

ABOUT RICK MENASSA, FOUNDER, HEALTH ESPRESSO

Rick Menassa is the founder and CEO of the mobile and in-cloud platform Health Espresso Inc. and the CEO and founder of iCare Home Health, a boutique innovative home health-care company specializing in complex post-discharge care and aging-in-place services for Halton, Peel and the Greater Toronto Area. Under his leadership, iCare Home Health won the Oakville Chamber of Commerce Award for Business Excellence in 2018. It was honoured with the Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2017 Mississauga Board of Trade Business Excellence Awards. Passionate about giving back to and enhancing community engagement, Menassa serves as the Vice-Chair of the Durham College AI Technical Advisory Committee. He is the Immediate Past Board Chair for the Seniors Life Enhancement Centre; he also served as Board Director for the Brain Injury Society of Toronto and served as interim Board Chair and Director at the Willow Foundation in Halton Region.

ABOUT WOUNDS CANADA

Established in 1995, Wounds Canada is a charitable organization dedicated to advancing wound prevention and management for all people in Canada. They advocate for a population health approach that promotes best practices to support persons at risk of or living with wounds, health decision-makers and front-line clinicians. They develop and provide educational programs and resources and support research to advance this holistic, risk-based approach further. Wounds Canada fosters relationships with interested individuals and organizations to expand and sustain a robust wound community in Canada with mutually beneficial global connections. Their goal is to reduce the prevalence and incidence of wounds of all types and the negative consequences they bring—including patient suffering and wasted health-care dollars. To learn more, visit www.woundscanada.ca.

ABOUT MARIAM BOTROS, CEO, WOUNDS CANADA

As the CEO of Wounds Canada and vice-president of D Foot International, Mariam Botros has a longstanding passion for community service, education and patient care. She is a chiropodist and diabetes educator by training with a master's degree in Educational Leadership. She has published, developed and lectured in multiple programs and supported the implementation and evaluation of many programs nationally and internationally in diabetic foot complications, wound care and amputation prevention. Through her different roles as an executive director, health-care practitioner and educator, researcher, and faculty member for many well-recognized organizations, Mariam has extensive practical and professional experience dedicated to empowering front-line clinicians, improving patient outcomes and improved health-care efficiencies.