

Canada, We Have a Problem



Sue Rosenthal

In 2003 the Canadian Association of Wound Care (CAWC) funded a study to determine the extent of pressure ulcers in a variety of health-care settings in Canada. The results indicated that about one in four Canadians in care had a pressure ulcer—meaning hundreds of thousands of Canadians have a pressure ulcer at any point in time. With evidence indicating that as many as 70 per cent of pressure ulcers are preventable, it became obvious that something had to be done about this widespread and expensive problem. As a result, the CAWC created the Pressure Ulcer Awareness Program

(PUAP), which ran as a pilot from April to September 2006. This issue of *Wound Care Canada* is largely devoted to the program: a description of the program itself and a pilot process that was used to test it, results from the pilot, first-hand testimony from pilot-site champions, and additional information on the prevention of pressure ulcers.

The PUAP is an important tool for the CAWC and wound care in Canada: it provides a model of care that focuses on prevention rather than treatment, it creates a platform from which the CAWC can effectively advocate for the imple-

mentation by governments and facilities of policies and activities that support pressure-ulcer prevention, and it provides a workable model for future prevention programs in other wound-related areas.

As you read through this issue, you'll learn more about the hidden barriers to preventing pressure ulcers that were uncovered by the pilot program, and identify opportunities through which your facility can make the kind of policy and practice changes necessary to prevent pressure ulcers. ☺

Sue Rosenthal,
Editor

Canada, nous avons un problème

En 2003, l'Association canadienne pour le soin des plaies a financé une étude pour déterminer l'étendue des ulcères de pression dans divers contextes de soins de santé au Canada. Les résultats indiquent qu'environ un Canadien traité sur quatre souffrait d'un ulcère de pression. Ceci signifie que des centaines de milliers de Canadiens souffrent d'un ulcère de pression à un moment ou à un autre. Avec des preuves indiquant que plus de 70 pour cent des ulcères de pression sont évitables, il est devenu évident qu'il fallait faire quelque chose à propos de ce problème répandu et coûteux. L'ACSP mis en place un projet pilote, le programme de sensibilisation des ulcères de pres-

sion (PSUP), qui se déroula d'avril à septembre 2006. Ce numéro de *Wound Care Canada* est en grande partie consacré au programme. Vous y trouverez une description du programme et du processus pilote qui a été utilisé pour le tester, les résultats du projet pilote, un témoignage direct des champions du site pilote, et des renseignements supplémentaires sur la prévention des ulcères de pression.

Le PSUP est un outil important pour l'ACSP et le soin des plaies au Canada. Il procure un modèle de soins qui porte sur la prévention plutôt que sur le traitement, il crée une plateforme pouvant servir à l'ACSP à avaliser de façon efficace la

mise en application par les gouvernements et les établissements de politiques et d'activités qui favorisent la prévention des ulcères de pression, et il procure un modèle viable de programmes futurs de prévention dans d'autres domaines liés au soin des plaies.

La lecture de ce numéro, vous renseignera sur les barrières cachées dans la prévention des plaies de pression, identifiées grâce au projet pilote. De plus, vous identifierez les changements de pratiques et politiques nécessaires pour que votre établissement soit efficace dans la prévention des ulcères de pression. ☺

La rédactrice,
Sue Rosenthal

Sue Rosenthal, BA, MA,
specializes in health
and wellness
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has been associated
with the CAWC
since 2000.

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The Canadian Association of Wound Care is a non-profit organization of health-care professionals, industry participants, patients and caregivers dedicated to the advancement of wound care in Canada.

The CAWC was formed in 1995, and its official meeting is the CAWC annual conference held in Canada each year. The association's efforts are focused on five key areas: public policy, clinical practice, education, research and connecting with the international wound-care community. The CAWC works to significantly improve patient care, clinical outcomes and the professional satisfaction of wound-care clinicians.

L'Association canadienne du soin des plaies est un organisme sans but lucratif regroupant des professionnels de la santé, des gens de l'industrie, des patients et des membres du personnel soignant fortement intéressés à l'avancement des connaissances pour le soin des plaies au Canada.

Fondée en 1995, l'ACSP organise, chaque année, au Canada, un congrès qui lui tient lieu de réunion officielle, le Congrès annuel de l'ACSP. L'association consacre ses efforts dans cinq domaines particuliers : les politiques gouvernementales, la pratique clinique, la formation, la recherche et la création de liens avec la communauté internationale directement impliquée dans le soin des plaies. L'Association canadienne du soin des plaies vise une amélioration significative du soin donné au patient, des résultats cliniques et de la satisfaction professionnelle des spécialistes en soin des plaies.

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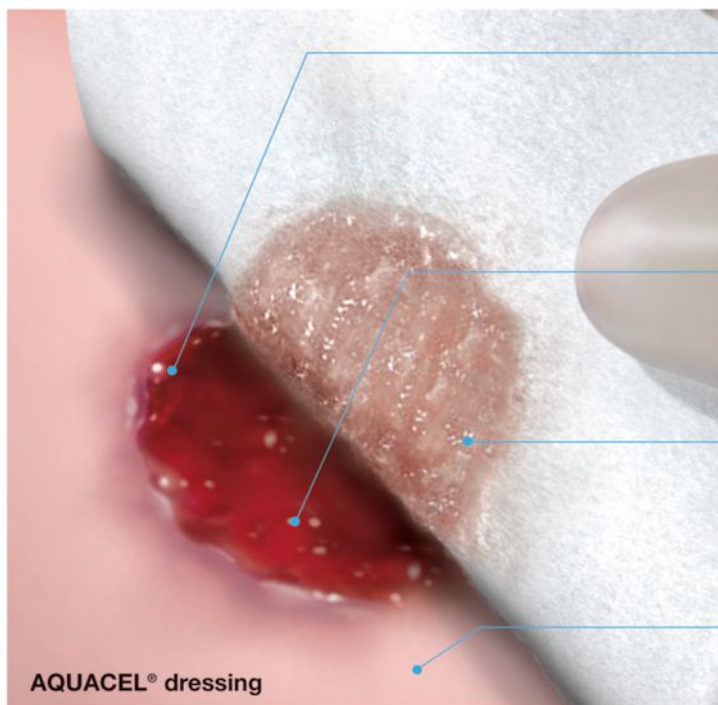
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