



Delivering the Best Possible Care Despite Barriers

Every day, frontline clinicians are expected to deliver care at a high standard—even when there are significant obstacles in their way. But how can they deliver top-quality care when the appropriate policies aren't in place? When resources are scarce? When standard therapies are not working and the evidence for alternatives is limited?

In this issue, we address these barriers and explore solutions for overcoming them.

In the article on advanced therapies for the management of diabetic foot ulcers (page 10), we look at what the literature and expert opinion say about the use of advanced therapies. The article provides a summary of the evidence despite its limitations and presents a protocol to guide decision-making.

Few clinical settings are as

challenging as a drop-in facility for homeless and indigent individuals. And yet a team in Calgary has found a way to deliver a high standard of care under less-than-ideal circumstances. Despite limited resources and a transient client base, the team interviewed on page 18 in "Wound Care in a Drop-In and Rehabilitation Centre: A Calgary Perspective" does it by making the best use of limited resources and aligning the delivery of care to the needs and abilities of their clients. By all working together they are able to make best-practice-based care decisions despite the obstacles they face.

Developing and implementing new health policy presents unique challenges for reasons outlined in the last of our policy series: The Role of Health Policy in Wound Management. Entitled

"Knowledge into Practice: Two Examples of Health Policy in the Real World" the article on page 26 outlines, among other things, why it is important for clinicians to understand "how policy can impact the politicized complexity of health-care reform as well as the link between policy and advocacy." One of the barriers is self-imposed and relates to the lack of experience or desire on the part of frontline clinicians to become aware of and involved in policy-making.

I hope you will find our line-up of articles useful and worthy of sharing with your colleagues. To make sure they have easy access to the online magazine and receive bulletins about it and other CAWC programs and publications, please encourage them to get on the free mailing list by emailing info@cawc.net.

— Sue Rosenthal, *Editor*