

Coming Soon!

Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Wounds

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The prevention and management of wounds are challenging endeavours. There are well-defined factors that put patients at risk for developing wounds and for experiencing impaired or prolonged healing of existing wounds. These internal and external stressors include personal health, the environment and the context in which patients live, such as the availability of local and regional resources. Each of these factors, alone or in combination, can have an impact on skin integrity and wound healing.

Ultimately, it is up to the body to heal itself. This means that the purpose of the health-care team is to optimize the body's ability to prevent or heal a wound. Assessments and interventions that identify and acknowledge each patient's specific needs, culture and values allow those patients to be respected as experts in their own lives, assist the team in developing goals of care that meet

patient needs and support self-management. It is necessary for health-care professionals to acknowledge and empower the patient as an active part of the health-care team and share goals that can be achieved through evidence-based care.¹

As part of the current initiative to update the Canadian Association of Wound Care's (CAWC's) best practice recommendation articles (see "Best Practice Recommendations Update: 2016" in the previous issue of *Wound Care Canada*), the Best Practice Recommendations



(BPR) for *Preparing the Wound Bed* is also being updated to include a new process—a series of five consecutive steps—that supports patient-centred care. The updated article, entitled “Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Wounds,” delivers the new process, called the Wound Management Cycle, as an updated and expanded version of the Wound Bed Prep (WBP) model. The Wound Management Cycle guides the clinician through a logical and systematic approach to the prevention and management of wounds, from the initial assessment to a sustainable plan targeting self-management. The Wound Management Cycle will be represented in a number of ways:

- in a visual format showing the five consecutive steps
- as a quick-reference guide (QRG) that outlines the five steps and associated recommendations
- through detailed discussion of the recommendations that incorporate the supporting evidence

The Best Practice Recommendation (BPR) for the Prevention and Management of Wounds will be made available by the CAWC to provide a framework for care in the complex area of wound management and skin health. BPR articles on specific wound-related etiologies have evolved from this new and revised framework and will also be made available later this year. The Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Wounds article and other BPRs are not intended to be clinical practice guidelines but a distillation of existing evidence that has been translated into a succinct practice article and bedside enabler (QRG) for easy mobilization into practice. 🖐

Reference

1. RNAO, 2015. Person- and Family-Centred Care: Supplement. Nursing Best Practice Guideline. Accessed February 01 2016. <http://rnao.ca/bpg/guidelines/person-and-family-centred-care>.

BPRs at the 2016 Conference

Make sure to register for the CAWC's annual conference in Niagara Falls, ON, November 3–6, 2016, for a first look at the complete set of 2016 revisions to the Best Practice Recommendation papers!

A special plenary session on Friday morning, entitled *Setting the Stage: Revisiting the Pathway to Best Practice*, will outline the evolution of the Wound Bed Prep model into the new Wound Management Cycle, which is at the foundation of each of the topic BPR papers.

On Saturday November 5, 2016, there will be sessions specifically focused on these updates. These sessions will feature talks led by authors of each paper to provide a synopsis of the content and to outline major changes from past versions.

The following BPR papers will be featured:

- Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Diabetic Foot Ulcers
- Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Skin Tears
- Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Surgical Wound Complications
- Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Pressure Injuries

