

# Working Together to Improve the Health of Canadian Seniors: An Innovative Product and Partnership



**C**hronic wounds such as venous, diabetic and arterial ulcers can be hard to heal, particularly in older adults, who often have underlying health conditions. If not treated effectively, these types of wounds can lead to infection, reduced mobility and quality of life, and even the loss of a limb.

Recently, Revera, a leading owner and operator in the senior living sector, piloted the use of the geko™ device technology (Master Distributor in Canada, Perfuse Medtec Inc.) as part of Revera's Innovators in Aging Program, an initiative to bring the most promising products, services and technologies to the seniors who need them most. Consenting long-term-care residents who had non-healing wounds in their lower extremities were provided with geko™ devices applied bilaterally to their lower legs for 6 hours per day, 5 days per week.

## What is geko™ Wound Therapy?

The geko™ is a self-adhesive muscle pump activator device designed to help hard-to-heal wounds by enhancing blood circulation and managing edema. The device also provides treatment for ischemia, poor venous blood flow and prevention of DVT.

## What was discovered through Revera's pilot of the product?

This served as the product's international launch in the long-term care sector for chronic, non-healing wounds. Prior to the evaluation, there was an average weekly **increase** of 1.5% in surface area (SA). All residents were adherent with wearing the geko™ device, and nursing staff and cognizant residents could easily adjust the setting. Application and removal were simple. For those who were adherent to best practices such as compression therapy or pressure offloading as well as the geko™ device, there was a 10.9% ( $p=0.00075$ ) weekly decrease in SA for 8 wounds over 14 weeks. It was effective in closing wounds, reducing pain and edema and improving quality of life. Most residents felt engaged with the therapy, "because they felt it working."

## How has this part of the Innovators in Aging initiative led to future collaborations between the two companies?

The positive outcomes motivated Revera to invest \$820,000 (CAD) in the geko™ device to help support its further growth. The opportunity was invaluable in validating the use of this technology with long-term-care residents. Revera was thrilled to see how the device helped the seniors recover and hope to bring it to more older adults in need of help. The company felt that the geko™ device is a great adjunctive solution for many types of lower leg wounds (venous, mixed, diabetic, pressure) when added to best practices in the LTC and retirement home sectors.

## What does this mean to health-care practitioners and their patients/clients/residents in Canada?

Improvement of lower limb venous and arterial volume flow and velocity, and microcirculation to the skin and wound bed have demonstrated statistically significant healing in an aged population with hard-to-heal wounds. Blood flow is essential to health and wound healing; as Canadians start to benefit from use of the geko™ device for chronic wounds, further research and evaluations are underway.

View a [webinar](#) featuring Dr. Keith Harding speaking on the geko™ device.

[www.gekowound.ca](http://www.gekowound.ca)

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