



News in Wound Care

Wounds Canada News

2019 Fall Conference Wrap-Up

Our fall conference, Driving Change in Wound Care, was held in Niagara Falls, ON, October 3–6. The event was well attended and provided attendees with 66 inspirational sessions delivered by 80 expert local, national and international speakers. Delegates had the opportunity to read 50 research posters and attend oral poster sessions where they could ask questions and exchange ideas with the poster authors. Our industry partners presented 12 sessions and their booth representatives were in place during exhibit periods to pass



Niagara Falls 2019

**Fall
Conference**

OCT. 3–6, 2019
NIAGARA FALLS, ON

The Wounds Canada Foundation's Now We Can! Campaign

The Wounds Canada Foundation was officially launched at our fall conference with the Now We Can! Campaign and the hashtag #wipeoutwounds. To read more about the campaign, see page 40.

The Wounds Canada Foundation is a charity created by Wounds Canada to support Canadians who have wounds or are at risk for developing wounds. For more information, visit www.woundscanadafoundation.ca.



Limb Preservation in Canada

Limb Preservation in Canada is Wounds Canada's latest publication, focused specifically on the issues of diabetic foot complications and limb preservation. [Click here](#) to view the inaugural issue!

This publication began as a supplement to *Wound Care Canada* to provide a summary of the sessions offered at the New Perspectives in Diabetic Limb Preservation symposium held in Toronto in May 2019. But, as we put together the summaries of the event we decided to create an annual, standalone publication—*Limb Preservation in Canada*—and turn it into a peer-reviewed journal aimed at advancing knowledge and its application to practice, research and policy making for this growing community. Subsequent issues of *Limb Preservation in Canada* will feature an



along their expertise on new and familiar products. As always, the conference, which is the largest of its kind in Canada, gave attendees many opportunities to network with colleagues, wound experts, patients and others who share their interest in wound prevention and management.

Thank you to all those who attended for your enthusiasm and energy throughout the weekend! Be sure to read the session summaries from this event, starting on page 12.



expanded range of article types to improve the understanding among stakeholders working in the area of limb preservation.

Best Practice Recommendations (BPRs)

Have you read **Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Venous Leg Ulcers**?

The eighth chapter of Wounds Canada's *Foundations of Best Practice for Skin and Wound Management* was released at our fall conference in October. The recommendations included in this article are based on the best available evidence, are patient driven and are intended to support the clinician and integrated team in implementing and sustaining best practices in the prevention and management of venous



leg ulcers.

Download this resource today for key information about how to optimize your assessment, set goals, assemble a team, establish and implement a plan of care and evaluate outcomes to ensure your patients receive the best possible care to support prevention and management.

Coming soon: **Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Arterial Leg Ulcers**

Stay tuned for the release of chapter 9, Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Arterial Leg Ulcers. Join our mailing list by sending an email to info@woundscanada.ca to make sure you don't miss it!

Don't forget! Seven other BPRs are available for download.

Foundations of Best Practice for Skin and Wound Management is an online resource to assist clinicians in providing the best possible care.

Add a Wounds Canada Institute Program to Your Conference Experience

Participate in the Skills Lab for Local Wound Care, part of the Wounds Canada Institute's Best Practice Approach to Skin Health and Wound Management: Knowledge and Skills (A100NWS) program, on Thursday, April 2, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at the Calgary Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre (the day before Wounds Canada's spring conference, at the same location).

This interactive skills lab, led by expert faculty, builds on the information presented in the

Best Practice Approach to Skin Health and Wound Management: Knowledge (A100MNN) program and will further your knowledge and skills related to local wound care. Students will have the opportunity to practise the skills of local wound care, including wound cleansing, debridement (including conservative sharp debridement), infection management and moisture management (dressing selection).



Click below to view/download the chapters of *Foundations of Best Practice for Skin and Wound Management*.

- Introduction
- Chapter 1: Skin: Anatomy, Physiology and Wound Healing
- Chapter 2: Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Wounds
- Chapter 3: Prevention and Management of Pressure Injuries
- Chapter 4: Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Skin Tears
- Chapter 5: Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Surgical Wound Complications
- Chapter 6: Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Diabetic Foot Ulcers
- Chapter 7: Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Burns

Advocating for Better Wound Prevention and Care

Wounds Canada works with the provinces to advance better wound care education, policy and practice by meeting with government personnel, holding events and providing advisory support. We are currently working with Alberta Health Services and Covenant Health on the spring conference, putting the final touches on a summit report from Nova Scotia on the subject of pressure injuries, and collaborating with Ontario on the development of pathways, the provision of health-care professional education and policies to strengthen wound care (see page 8 for information on one of our recent events).

Looking to 2020

Help Celebrate Wounds Canada's 25th Anniversary

2020 is Wounds Canada's 25th year and, to mark this milestone, we are busy planning a number of



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25 years of advancing wound prevention and care

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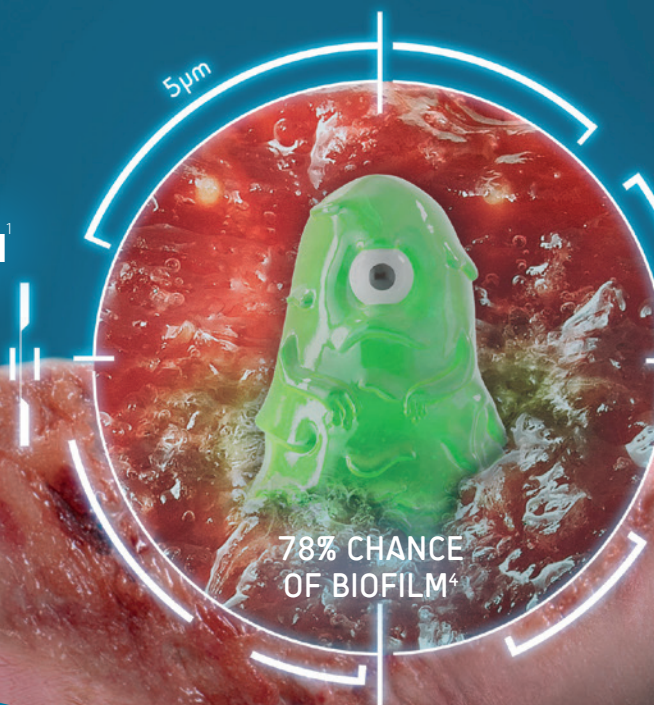
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1. Bowler PG, et al. Parsons, Wound Medicine 14 (2016) 6–11. 2. Metcalf DG et al. J. Wound Care 2016; Vol25, No3. 3. Metcalf DG, et al. Int Wound J 2017; 14: 203–213. 4. Malone M et al. 2017. JWC; 20–25.

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exciting programs and initiatives to ensure this is our best year yet!

Spring Conference, Calgary, AB, April 3–4

Wounds Canada's spring conference is a two-day event for frontline health-care professionals, policymakers, researchers, educators and, of course, patients and their families. The agenda has been developed using needs assessments, extensive consultation with regional representatives and research into the most pressing wound-related issues to address the needs of health professionals in Alberta, the West and the rest of Canada. [Click here](#) for more information and to register today!



Take Advantage of Early Bird Pricing

Take advantage of our early bird discount by [registering](#) on or before January 16, 2020.

The Call for Abstracts is Open

Wounds Canada is now accepting abstract submissions for posters for the spring conference. Top

Save the Date!

Fall Conference, Toronto, ON, October 15–18

Wounds Canada's fall conference is being held October 15–18, 2020, in Toronto at the Westin Harbour Castle. Stay tuned for information about how to register for our special 25th anniversary event!



abstracts will be selected for oral presentation at the conference. This is your opportunity to share your research, experiences and innovations with your peers!

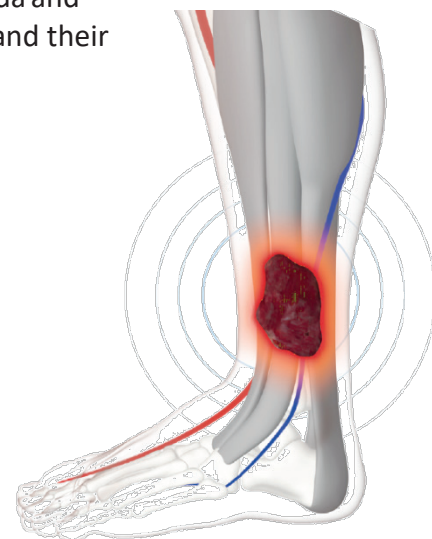
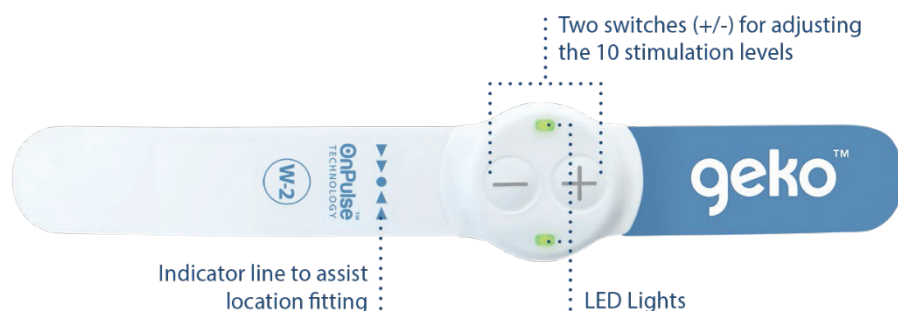
Abstracts may refer to any topic related to:

- the promotion of skin health
- the prevention, assessment and management of various wound types

We invite authors to share information in a broad range of areas, including research, education, health policy and clinical practice. For full submission guidelines, [click here](#).

Lower Leg Ulcers

Wound management is a considerable burden on health systems, in Canada and elsewhere, significantly impacting health and quality of life of individuals and their families (CIHI Compromised Wounds in Canada, 2013).



www.gekowound.ca

info@perfusemedtec.com

Estimated cost-savings of \$2,500.00 per patient if used as a first-line adjunctive therapy for Venous Leg Ulcers along with best practices (WW LHIN Evaluation 2018 Perfuse Medtec Report)

Advocating at Queen's Park, Toronto

On November 20, 2019, Wounds Canada held a reception for Ontario members of provincial Parliament (MPPs) to increase awareness of the burden of wounds in the province. Wounds Canada staff and key volunteers, including patients and health-care professionals, had a chance to speak one-on-one with politicians and their staffs to share information and personal stories of the effect of wounds on Ontario's health-care system as well as on individual lives. A presentation by Wounds Canada's president, Morty Eisenberg, outlined the issue of wounds in Ontario. Patient advocate Linda Moss, the daughter of a patient who died with a pressure injury in a hospital in Ontario, said a few words about her family's experience. Ontario Progressive Conservative MPP Natalia Kusendova, New Democratic Party Health Critic France G  linas and interim Ontario Liberal Party Leader John Fraser all spoke about their parties' commitments to health care for the people of Ontario.

Wounds Canada advocated that the Government of Ontario prioritize wound care, ensuring that patient care is equitable, timely, non-fragmented and accessible across the province. To improve patient care, reduce hospitalizations and cut spending on wound care, key actions must include:

- Developing policies that prevent wounds such as pressure injuries and infected wounds in acute and home care settings
- Increasing wound-related education for health-care providers, patients and families
- Ensuring Ontario's interprofessional teams include wound experts
- Implementing wound care pathways from hospitals to home and community care with set measurables, monitoring and evaluation
- Providing access to products and technology that are evidence-based and improve patient outcomes

Pages 9 and 10 are examples of the advocacy tools Wounds Canada created to increase the awareness of government decision makers on the issue of wounds.

This initiative is an early part of Wounds Canada's larger advocacy effort, which will encompass other provinces and territories in the coming years.



About Wounds

A primer for the non-clinician

What is a wound?

A wound is a break in skin integrity due to assault from the outside (trauma) or internal changes that cause skin breakdown (disease).

Minor wounds: Small cuts, scrapes, blisters, and shallow burns over a small area, shallow pressure, shear and friction (abrasion) injuries

Major wounds: Deep cuts, deep and/or extensive burns, surgical incisions, deep pressure ulcers, penetrating wounds, any significant break in the skin that includes other tissues or covers an extensive body area

Wound Healing

In healthy individuals, most wounds heal on their own with minimal intervention. The healing may take time, depending on the seriousness of the wound, but healing continues until closure is achieved.

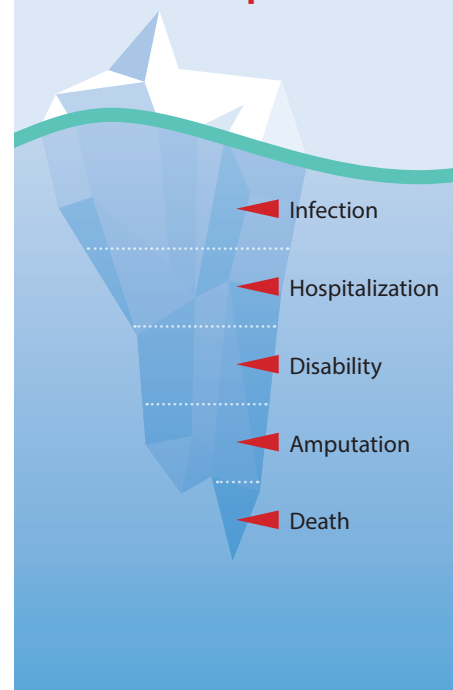
For people with conditions such as diabetes, poor blood flow in the legs, neurological or sensory deficits, musculoskeletal conditions, or other conditions that affect bodily systems, **even minor wounds can become a problem, and major wounds put patients at high risk for complications (such as infection and amputation).** In these individuals, wound healing can be slow, stall or stop completely. Wounds can become worse. These wounds can sometimes be present for years if left untreated or if treated improperly. Patients with non-healing wounds often end up in hospital, sometimes for long periods or repeatedly.



The Impact of Wounds

Major wounds and wounds that don't heal in a timely way or that become complicated are a significant burden to Canada's health-care systems in terms of financial resources, human resources and space in hospital, rehab and home care. For patients, they can lead to significantly altered lifestyle, loss of function, loss of employment, additional illness, amputation and even death. Families, friends and work colleagues are affected too.

Wounds in Canada: The Hidden Epidemic



The Bottom Line

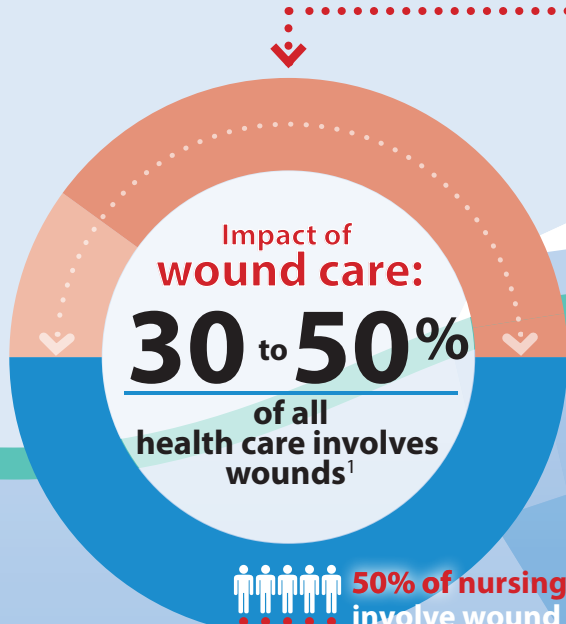
Giving higher priority to wound prevention and treatment—and supporting them through changes in policy, education and practice—will reduce wasted health-care dollars and create a healthier Canadian society.

The Hidden Epidemic


Wounds are **expensive** and affect everyone.



ONTARIO WOUND CARE SPENDING:
\$1.5 billion²
DIRECT COSTS

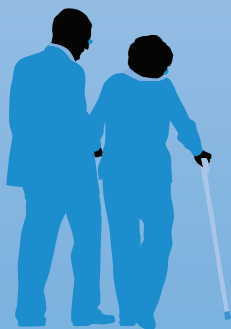


 **50% of nursing visits³** involve wound care delivery in the community

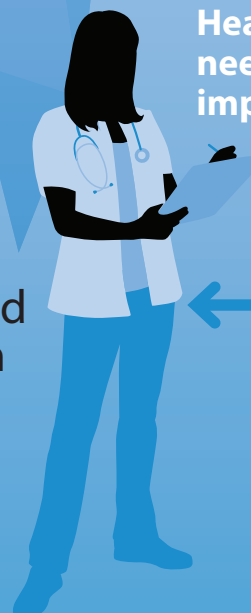
 **35% of persons⁴** receiving community care have a chronic wound

 **26% of persons⁴** in an acute or non-acute setting have a pressure injury

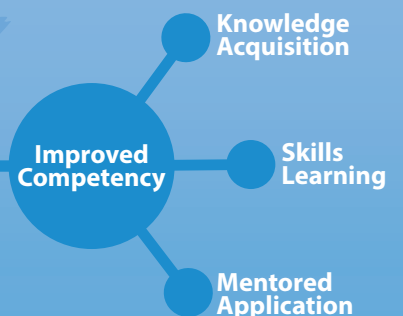
Preventing and treating wounds must be a **priority** within health care.



Patients and their families need to know more about wound prevention and self-management.



Health-care professionals need **training** to learn and implement best practice.



Best practice-based wound prevention and care **will save money.**

Sources:

1. OHA and OACCAC. 2011. Four Pillars: Recommendation for Achieving a High Performing Health System
2. CIHI National Health Expenditure Trends, 1975 to 2011
3. McIsaac C. Closing the gap between evidence and action: How outcome measurement informs the implementation of evidence-based wound care practice in home care. Wounds. 2007;19(11):299-309.
4. OHA, OACCAC, OFCMHAP. 2010. Ideas and Opportunities for Bending the Health Care Cost Curve

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