

Coloplast Sponsored Learning:

# Enabling Effective Wound Care Education For Non-specialists: Introducing The Coloplast Wound Type Specific Pathways

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## The Changing Landscape of Wound Care

### 1. Patient and Health-care Practitioner Demographic

The estimated burden of wound care in Canada is approximately \$12 billion.<sup>4</sup> As the general population ages, the health-care demands and cost increase. An aging population also correlates to an increase in the prevalence of wounds and more complex wounds. For example, a study in the UK found an increase of 11% per annum in the prevalence of wounds from 2012/2013 to 2017/2018.<sup>1</sup> Not only is the general population aging but the health-care professionals

(HCPs) are aging as well. Experienced and highly skilled professionals are retiring from their specialties, leaving behind less experienced and potentially less skilled and knowledgeable HCPs dealing with more patients with wounds and more complex wounds.

### 2. Health-care Practitioner Workload and Workforce

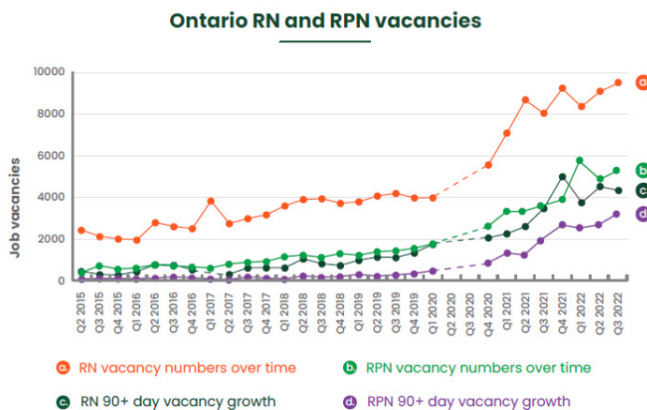
Nurses have been experiencing heavier workloads than ever before. These heavy workloads are contributing to increased burnout and turnover. Statistics Canada reported an increase of registered nursing vacancies from approximately 6,000 in the fourth quarter of 2020 to approximately 10,000 in the third

quarter of 2022 in Ontario.<sup>2</sup> Better workplace support and reduced workloads were cited as the top two retention factors for nurses planning to leave the profession.<sup>2</sup> The high turnover of staff combined with the loss of experienced and skilled HCPs contribute to inconsistency in patient care. Guest et al. reported that 30% of wounds remained unhealed in the aforementioned study in the UK.<sup>1</sup> The prevalence of chronic, non-healing wounds have a great impact on patient quality of life and adds to the overall health-care costs.

amount of wound care is now delivered in the community. In the UK, Guest et al. demonstrated a much greater increase in wound care related visits by district/community nurses and health-care aids compared to practice nurses, general physicians, and in a hospital/outpatient setting.<sup>1</sup> Other countries around the world are experiencing this same trend toward wound care in a community setting. More than ever there is a need to equip and support those who provide wound care in the community.

### 3. Patient Settings

There is also a shift in the patient setting where wound care is delivered. A large



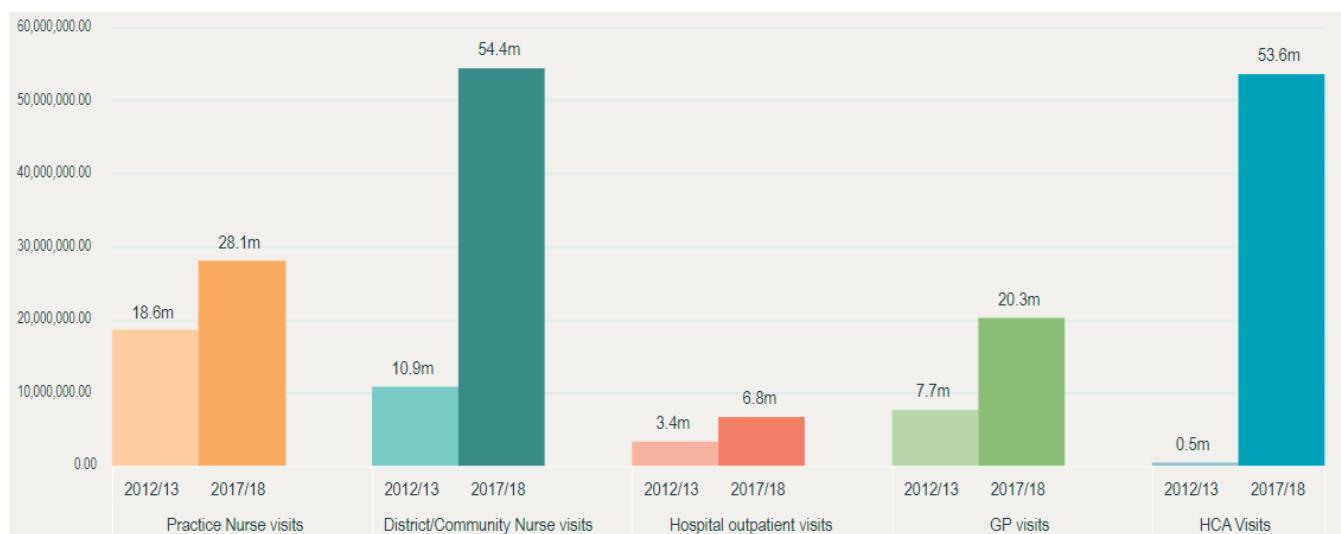
## 68.3%

better workplace support

## 63.3%

reduced workloads

Statistics Canada 2022a. Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. (2022). *Nursing Through Crisis: A Comparative Perspective*. May 12.



## The Wound Care Pathway



A step-by-step and evidence-based approach to wound healing



Developed with input and feedback from more than 2,200 healthcare professionals<sup>1</sup>



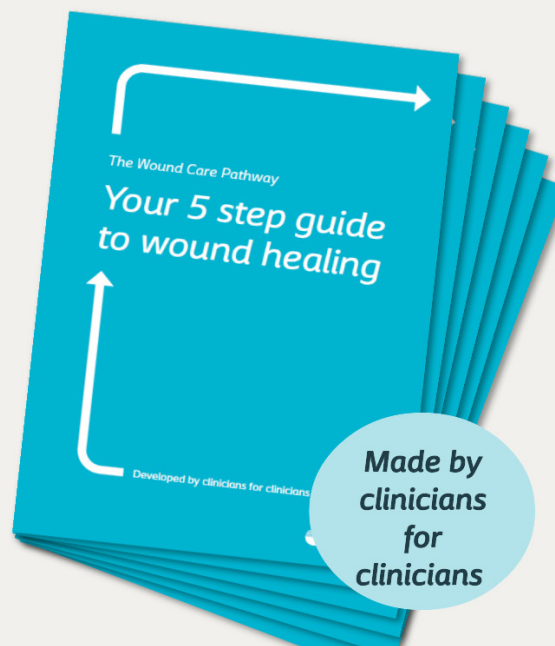
A response to the educational need expressed by healthcare professionals



Developed to support the non-specialists in wound care



Gap management should be a natural part of wound assessment and management



## Take an evidence-based and step-by-step approach towards wound healing

Where there are challenges, there are opportunities. The Wound Care Pathways were developed in response to the educational needs expressed by HCPs who work with patients living with wounds. The Wound Care Pathway – a 5-step guide to wound healing that provides practical, evidence-based guidance on how to assess, treat and monitor wound care patients, and create an optimal healing environment that leads to a shorter way to wound healing.

## The Wound Type Specific Pathways:

To support non-generalist nurses with more detailed guidance on specific wound types, the Wound Type Specific Pathways have been developed. The pathways cover the most common wound types - diabetic foot ulcers, venous leg ulcers, skin tears, pressure injuries/ ulcers, and surgical wound dehiscence. They contain essential guidance on wound type-specific management and include the following:

- Definition of wound type
- How to assess
- How to diagnose
- How to develop a treatment plan
- How to manage the wound
- How to choose a dressing and additional therapies

apies

- How to monitor progression
- When to consult a specialist or refer.

The Wound Care Pathway was developed to achieve the following objectives:



- Provide clear, concise guidance to help implement best practice wound care at the bedside.
- Create consensus on how to assess, treat and monitor wound care patients to improve standards of care.
- Provide evidence-based practice guidance to help improve patient outcomes and aim to a shorter way to wound healing.

[Click here to download the Wound Type Specific](#)



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## References

1. Guest JF, Fuller GW, Vowden P. Cohort study evaluating the burden of wounds to the UK's National Health Service in 2017/2018: update from 2012/2013. *BMJ Open* 2020;10:e045253. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2020-045253
2. Statistics Canada 2022a. Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. (2022). *Nursing Through Crisis: A Comparative Perspective*. May 12.
3. Coloplast sponsored survey, N= 62 HCPs. 2023/024
4. Queen D, Botros M. The true cost of wounds for Canadians. *Wound Care Canada*. 2024;22(1): 16-20. DOI: 10.56885/NXMW2913

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