WCI Spotlight

Focus on the Prevention and Management of Venous Leg Ulcers: Knowledge and Skills (A105MWS)

Developed and delivered by national experts in skin health and wound care, Focus on the Prevention and Management of Venous Leg Ulcers: Knowledge and Skills is one of the most popular programs in the current Wounds Canada Institute lineup.

Consisting of two online modules, one full-day on-site skills lab and an interactive webinar (completed in the order listed), this program is based on the concepts contained within the upcoming Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Venous Leg Ulcers. The program allows students, under the guidance of expert faculty, to learn about and practise skills relevant to the prevention, assessment and management of venous leg ulcers. Practical skills include conducting an ankle-brachial pressure index, using a monofilament, conducting mobility and gait assessments, demonstrating calf-muscle pump exercises, and choosing and applying compression bandages and garments. The wrap-up webinar invites students to discuss with faculty the challenges they have faced and strategies they have used in implementing the knowledge and skills learned into their everyday practice.

Here’s what some respondents found most useful about the program:

“I found everything very helpful. I enjoyed the opportunity and would recommend it to anyone.” —Christine, an acute-care registered practical nurse (RPN) from Meaford, Ontario

“Hands-on practical skills application, under supervision, with opportunity to ask questions and advice from faculty.” —Sandra, a community care RPN from St. Thomas, Ontario

“Assessments, better application of multidisciplinary roles and interventions. Enhanced understanding of holistic approach to care planning.” —Barbara, a long-term care home RPN from Wiarton, Ontario
Aimed at nurses and allied health-care professionals who self-identify as novice or advanced-beginner related to the prevention, assessment and management of venous leg ulcers, this program finds many students practising at a competent level (relevant to the subject matter) and prepares them to seek out mentorship opportunities in their respective workplaces, where they can perfect their skills over time and strive towards proficiency.

Evaluation of our most recently completed A105MWS program, attended by 38 health-care professionals, revealed that 100% of respondents felt that there was “moderate to significant improvement in their knowledge when comparing their pre- and post-tests.” All respondents also indicated that they “Were somewhat or extremely confident in their knowledge and skills relating to the prevention and management of venous leg ulcers after completing the program.”

**Upcoming Skills Lab in Halifax in April**
The Skills Lab for Venous Leg Ulcers, part of the Focus on the Prevention and Management of Venous Leg Ulcers: Knowledge and Skills program, will be offered in Halifax, Nova Scotia, prior to the 2019 Wounds Canada spring conference. Join our expert faculty on April 11 to practise your skills. Follow Barbara’s advice: “Do it. Well organized and great focus on theory prior to the skills lab makes for a better skills lab experience.”

For more information on the upcoming skills lab in Halifax, click [here](http://www.woundscanadainstitute.ca).

**Further Information on WCI Programs**
For more about the Focus on the Prevention and Management of Venous Leg Ulcers: Knowledge and Skills program and other Wounds Canada Institute (WCI) programs, visit the WCI institute website at: [www.woundscanadainstitute.ca](http://www.woundscanadainstitute.ca).