



Wound up for Wounds

Issue 1 | April 2018

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Wound up for Wounds

Wound up (verb. To be excited) for Wounds (noun. Injuries to living tissue)

Welcome to the first edition of *Wound up for Wounds*, a newsletter from the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) Wound Care portfolio.

As the Education and Research Coordinator-Wound Care for WRHA, I am responsible for supporting initiatives to promote evidence-based practice to improve the quality of wound and skin care, including prevention and management of wounds.

My role is primarily focused on identifying learning needs in wound prevention and wound care for health care professionals and support staff. I work collaboratively with clinicians to develop learning strategies and resources including wound care courses and clinician mentorship.

It surprises many that my job is dedicated to wound care. I coordinate all of the WRHA wound care courses, and rely on a strong team of clinicians including dietitians, nurses, occupational therapists, physicians, and physiotherapists to develop content and teach the courses.

My favourite role is to be a resource to the health-care community in trying to solve problems, connect professionals with each other, and I delight in making someone's day a bit easier, so please feel free to call or email me. If I cannot answer your question, I can usually find someone who can!

Enjoy the longer days and the prospect of spring.

by Jane McSwiggan M.Sc., OT Reg. (MB), IIWCC



Important information:

- Wounds Canada Conference, May 11 – 12, 2018. Winnipeg, MB.

Register at www.woundscanada.ca under “Education”

- What to Do with What Lies Under the Dressing? A Primer on Wound Care, University of Manitoba, Jun 1 2018.

Register at <https://bit.ly/2Eyq3H7>

Practice Days: Wound Assessment and Dressing Selection

A refresher course for Level 1 on how wound assessment informs dressing selection and wound treatment.

Prerequisites:

Wound Care Education Level 1 preferred.

*NOTE: Each course is two hours and has the same content.

Location & times:

Concordia Hospital, April 20:
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Concordia Hospital, April 20:
10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

St. Boniface Hospital, May 29:
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

St. Boniface Hospital, June 6:
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Want to register? See page 4

Check your email one week before all wound care courses for pre-readings, handouts and directions to room.



Please consider coming to the Wounds Canada Spring Conference 2018 at the RBC Convention Centre May 11 to 12.

The conference will feature two days of learning and networking with peers, as well as local, national and international experts – an experience you cannot get anywhere else. Don't miss it!

There is also a pre-conference workshop on May 10 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for Health Care Aides/Rehabilitation Assistants. It costs \$75.00 + GST.

**Register at www.woundscanada.ca
under “Education”**

“Arterial leg ulcers need to be fed,

Venous leg ulcers need to be hugged,

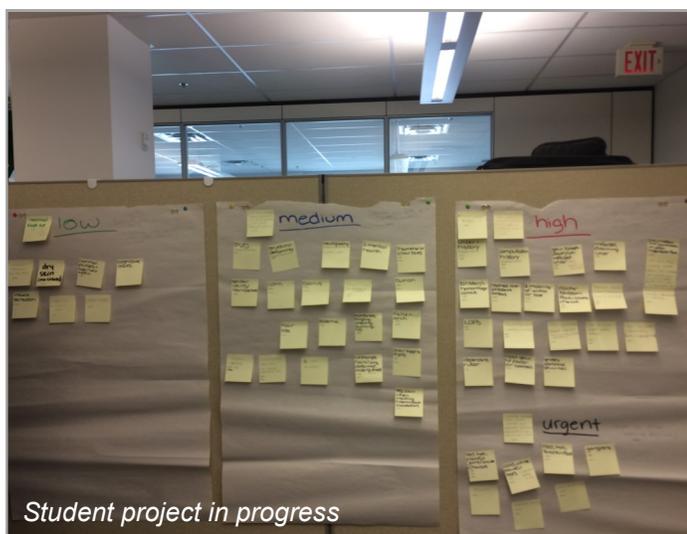
Diabetic foot ulcers need to be protected.”

- Tej Sahota



Student Occupational Therapists at WRHA

Risk assessment for Diabetic Feet in the works



Student project in progress

As two Masters of Occupational Therapy students from the University of Manitoba, we initiated the development of an interdisciplinary toolkit for the prevention and management of diabetic foot ulcers during our eight week placement at WRHA.

As part of our project, we aim to follow the WRHA's Wound Care strategic plan (2016-2021) through: enhancing patient experience; improving quality and integration; involving the public; and engaging service providers. This aligns with the vision of the WRHA to improve patient flow and access to resources.

Initially we immersed ourselves in the recent literature on best practice for assessment of risk in diabetic feet. Our passion for this topic grew rapidly as we recognized the world-wide gap in practice, as well as the local need for improvement in practice. As we sought clinical experience, we witnessed first-hand the impact of diabetes on quality of life and the lack of a coordinated approach to assessment of risk in diabetic feet.

Considering the large population of individuals living with diabetes in Manitoba, and in keeping with international guidelines, we discovered a lack of continuity in foot assessment and referral among health professions in the region. Through this project, we see how effective a coordinated approach to foot assessment and foot care would be in decreasing costs and improving efficiency and effectiveness of care for people at risk for diabetic foot ulcers.

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Resources

Wound Care Clinical Practice Guidelines (public website)

<http://bit.ly/2po0kMn>

Advanced wound care product formulary (WRHA staff only)

<http://bit.ly/2pq8VxA>

Having trouble signing up for courses?

LMS access

Log into LMS from any computer or device at <https://manitoba-ehhealth.learnflex.net> (public website)

Enter “**WOUND** “ in the global search bar.

- Level 1 is a bundle of 8 modules available online;
- Level 2 and other courses are delivered in the classroom setting.

No LMS access

Contact Cindy Hoff at choff@wrha.mb.ca or 204-926-7047 to register for courses.

Have a question?

Contact Jane McSwiggan, Education and Research Coordinator-Wound Care at jmcswiggan@wrha.mb.ca or 204-926-8013.

Student OTs cont.

It was identified that clinicians needed a reference tool to outline specific points of action, timelines and referral information for clients living with diabetes. Based on these discussions, we set out to develop a toolkit based on facilitating critical thinking, clinical reasoning and patient education regarding diabetic foot care.

The toolkit we have developed is a consolidation of best practice recommendations from Canadian and international literature. It involves an algorithmic approach to critical thinking and clinical reasoning for identification of risk for the diabetic foot, based on easily observable clinical signs. The recommendations and risk levels determined by the pathways correspond to client education handouts, which were created and adapted from Alberta Health Services. The handouts are printable and intended to be given to clients by clinicians, based on client needs.

Local resources were compiled and adapted for client and clinician use. The resources are intended to help clinicians better support their client’s needs outside of their direct care, and include: funding sources, local services for diabetes care and mental health supports.

We hope that this initiative can be extended to other regional health authorities in the province; thereby moving towards consistent province-wide prevention and management of diabetic foot complications.

by Kelsey Huyghe and Jessica Snure

Tool will be available soon on the WRHA staff Wound Care page (WRHA staff only) at:

<http://bit.ly/2DKARRU>