

## Good Practice Guidance 7: Wound management and online non prescription ordering system (ONPOS) in Care Homes

### Key Points

- Wounds are problematic, costly and impact significantly on a resident's quality of life. Many wounds such as pressure ulcers are preventable.
- The Wound Management Advice and Prescribing Guidance (Formulary) should be used to for all wound products within primary care including care homes both with and without nursing (via district nurses for care homes without nursing).
- Non-formulary products should not be used unless this has been discussed with tissue viability team first.
- First line dressings are available on the ONPOS system so that a small stock of dressings can be held in a care home (with nursing). Rationale for use should be documented in the care plan.
- Referrals to the Tissue Viability team to advise on wound management can be made from care homes with nursing. For care homes without nursing, referral would be via the district nurse managing the wound.

### Wound Management

#### Tissue Viability Team

The Tissue Viability (TV) team are a specialist wound care team based at Abingdon community hospital and offer support, advice and education to clinicians (and their patients) working within the community setting. This includes district nurses, practice nurses, community hospitals and care homes. The Team also runs the equipment service for patients in their own homes requiring pressure relieving equipment, hospital beds and specialist chairs.

#### Management of wounds in care homes

Wounds are problematic, costly and impact significantly on a resident's quality of life. Many wounds such as pressure ulcers are preventable; through proper patient assessment and the use of risk prediction tools many wounds can be avoided or be at least managed to heal in a timely way.

Some nurses may require further knowledge, skills and competence necessary for good wound management and so the TV team provides training intermittently throughout the year. Details on training can be found by contacting Learning and Development on 0845 2191096/1064 or 1121, please be aware there may be a charge for this.

Occasionally the TV team may be able to provide training to meet the needs of a specific care home and so the TV team should be contacted to discuss this, however again there may be a charge for this.

Referrals to the team to advise on wound management can be made from care homes with nursing by faxing either a complex wound referral or leg ulcer referral form to 01235 205788. Please ensure you complete the form thoroughly as missed information may lead to a delayed consultation. These forms are available from the Tissue Viability Admin Team on 01235 205786. For care homes without nursing, referral would be via the district nurse.

### **Wound care formulary**

It is important that wounds are managed appropriately; part of this management includes the appropriate selection of wound dressings. Within Oxfordshire there is an agreed wound care formulary which has been developed by a specialist group and is based on the available evidence and best practice. The TV team has significant involvement in the development and up-dating of this formulary.

The Wound Management Advice and Prescribing Guidance (Formulary) should be used to for all wound products within primary care including care homes both with and without nursing (via district nurses for care homes without nursing). There is an expectation for all settings (including care homes) that 70% of the dressings used are from the 1<sup>st</sup> line range. If products are required from the 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> or specialist categories the wound being treated is possibly more complex and so the TV team should be contacted for advice. Non-formulary products should not be used unless this has been discussed with tissue viability team first.

A copy of the Wound Management Advice and Prescribing Guidance (Formulary) has been sent to all care homes. In care homes with nursing, the nurses who are responsible for wound care should ensure they have access to the formulary and ensure they use it. For care homes without nursing where wounds are managed by district nurses, they will be using this formulary for their dressing selection. Use of the formulary by all involved in wound management will help improve the management of wounds across Oxfordshire.

If you have any queries about how to use the formulary or require more copies

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Good Practice Guidance documents are believed to accurately reflect the literature at the time of writing. However, users should always consult the literature and take account of new developments because these may affect this guidance

please contact the tissue viability office on the number below.

## **Online non prescription ordering system (ONPOS)**

### **What is ONPOS?**

- ONPOS is a non prescription ordering system for wound management products for practice nurses, district nurses and care homes with nursing.
- The care home (with nursing) formulary is for first line dressings derived from the formulary (Wound Management Advice and Prescribing Guidance).
- The system is web based and allows care home with nursing to order a small stock of dressings directly to the care home.
- The dressings are paid for out of the PCT prescribing budget.
- The dressings are for stock and can be used for any resident as they are not labelled for individual patients, this reduces waste and means that you can respond to your residents needs more quickly.
- The Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspectors are aware of the system and that dressings are not labelled for individual patients and are not on the MAR chart. Rationale for use should be documented in the care plan.

First line dressings are available on the ONPOS system so that a small stock of dressings can be held in a care home (with nursing). This means that if a resident develops a wound, the home has an appropriate selection of first line dressings to choose from. If a wound remains simple first line dressings can be continued, however if the wound becomes more complex then there are second and third line dressing options which can be prescribed by the resident's GP. Within care homes with nursing it is advised that a nurse had responsibility for routinely maintaining this stock.

If the dressings on ONPOS are not familiar to the care home nurses, the Wound Management Advice and Prescribing Guidance (Formulary) should be referred to as this not only offers direction on the specific dressing categories but also offers a learning aid which explains what a dressing will do and the type of wound that suits that dressing. If nurses still have concerns on what dressing is needed having referred to the formulary then a call should be logged with the Tissue Viability Team who will contact the care home nurses to provide advice and support. Training is available on wound management; further information is in the 'Wound management' section above.

### **Getting Started**

- The ONPOS system is available at [www.onpos.co.uk](http://www.onpos.co.uk) for further information on accessing the system please contact the Medicines Management Team

at Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group via the switchboard on 01865 336800.

- Locate a suitable storage area
- Review what is currently on the MAR sheets and aim to keep these lines in stock.
- If the dressing is not on the formulary find the alternative and switch to that.
- Only order the lines that you use. If other lines are needed at a later date they can be ordered for the next day.
- When placing the first order, this should be enough for about two weeks.
- Agree a regular time to order stock, probably once a week.
- Don't forget if an item is required it can be ordered at anytime. If the order is placed before 2pm it will be delivered on the next working day (Monday – Friday).
- The dressings can then be removed from the MAR sheet – ask the pharmacy to do this for.
- Make sure dressing use is documented in the care plan.

**Contact the Tissue Viability Team on:**

[tvadmin@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:tvadmin@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

Tel: 01235 205786

Or fax a wound referral form to 01235 205788

**Further information**

- Further information on managing medicines in care homes is available in Outcome 9 of the [CQC Essential Standards of Quality and Safety](#)
- Further information on [The handling of medicines in Social Care](#) can also be found on the Royal Pharmaceutical Society website: [www.rpharms.com](http://www.rpharms.com)
- The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) provides guidance and [advice on a number of topics](#) which is available on their website; [www.nmc-uk.org](http://www.nmc-uk.org)
- The National Patient Safety Agency also contains safety alerts related to medicines; <http://npsa.nhs.uk/>

*The above links are made available solely to indicate their potential usefulness to users. The user must use their own judgment to determine the accuracy and relevance of the information they contain.*



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