

# Tissue Issue



New Zealand Wound Care Society Newsletter Issue 27 October/November 2016

## WELCOME

## Inside this Issue

The Education Advisory Group will develop and edit the newsletter from February 2017. Future topics are flexible so please let us know what you would like, or to contribute to the 'Tissue Issue'. Tissue Issue name will stay! Thanks to all those that voted. Previous editions [click here](#)

- Welcome
- From the President
- Focus Topic - Pressure Injuries
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## From the President

Dear Members

Scholarships 2016 - Apply now - The New Zealand Wound Care Society is showing its support for education of health professionals involved in wound management by offering fifteen (15) Scholarship Awards in 2016. The scholarships available include:

- Four (4) awards of \$250, available for any educational course or study days which are wound-related.
- Two (2) awards of \$1000 for post-graduate study in Wound Management either in New Zealand or overseas.
- Three (3) awards of \$1000 for attendance at a National or International Wound Conference;
- In addition, we are offering six (6) 'REGISTRATION ONLY' scholarships to attend the NZWCS 8<sup>th</sup> National Conference in Rotorua.
- [Click here](#) for Scholarship Application Form

Kind regards  
Emil Schmidt – President NZWCS

## FOCUS TOPIC - PRESSURE INJURIES



### Relieving the PRESSURE within Palliative Care

Relieving the PRESSURE within Palliative Care  
by Leanne Bolton, CNS, Mary Potter Hospice

Last month a 34 year old woman, with Ca breast and secondary metastases to bone and brain, identified that her stage II sacral pressure injury that had developed due to her decreased mobility at home, was the most significant cause of her pain and consequently the reason for her decision to accept a hospice inpatient unit admission. Unfortunately, “the multiple pathologies of those receiving palliative care and the complex aetiology...may mean that some pressure injuries are not preventable” (Stephen-Hayes, 2012) is the harsh reality of pressure injury prevention and management during skin changes during end of life care. However, the significant additional burden for patients who develop pressure injuries during hospice care is worthy of the best possible practice to minimise the risk and maximise quality of life. As such, the Mary Potter multi-disciplinary team has developed a palliative approach to the evidence-based SSKIN bundle of care initiative (Gibbons et al., 2006). Following consultation within the team the “N for Nutrition” (which is often not a priority in the last months, weeks and days of life) has been redefined as “N for Negotiation and Nourishment. Negotiation with the patient and family and whanau focuses on the provision of education in order to negotiate and support the best possible pressure-relieving care. Nourishment continues to promote appropriate nutrition and hydration when appropriate, but also encompasses the importance of regular topical hydration to the skin, which can continue until the last moments of life. The Skin Assessment, Surface, Keep Moving and Incontinence elements of the bundle remain equal in consideration. This palliative bundle of care approach has been promoted as a “LOVE your SKINS – working together to prevent pressure injuries” package for patients in the inpatient unit since 2013. Together with facility guidelines (supported by the 2014 International Guidelines), team education, compulsory pressure injury reporting and care planning, internal and external audit requirements, public displays – including bedside signage, the percentage of pressure injury occurrence in the inpatient unit is lower than national QPS benchmark average for hospices throughout New Zealand - 0.08% compared to 0.35%. “Whenever an institution lowered its incidence of nosocomial pressure ulcers, it was always an improvement in staff performance as opposed to a less risky population group” (Bolton, 2008).

#### References:

- Bolton, L. (2008). Assessing the need for developing a comprehensive content-validated pressure ulcer guideline. *Ostomy Wound Management*, 54(11), 22-30.
- Gibbons, W., Shanks, H.T., Kleinhelter, R.N., & Jones, P. (2006). Eliminating facility-acquired pressure ulcers at Ascension Health. *Journal on Quality and Patient Safety*, 32(9), 488-496
- Stephen-Hayes, J. (2012). Pressure ulceration and palliative care: prevention, treatment, policy and outcomes. *International Journal of Palliative Nursing*, 18(1), 9-16.

For further information, please contact [leanne.bolton@marypotter.org.nz](mailto:leanne.bolton@marypotter.org.nz)

## Expert Reference Panel

Expert Reference Panel - Pressure Injury Prevention  
Over the last year Accident Compensation (ACC), the Health & Safety Quality Commission (HQSC), and the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) have all committed to work together with the health sector to prevent pressure injuries in a phased approach. In 2016 the first phase of the government campaign required the support and Expert Reference Panel. The role of this group is to review the evidence, literature and existing 'best practice' and to adapt it for the New Zealand environment. The Expert Panel comprised of representatives of the following organisations and groups: The New Zealand Wound Care Society, Consumers, Aged Care, Home Health Care, Long term Care, DHBs, Carers, Nurses, Doctors, Allied Health and of course ACC, HQSC and the Ministry of Health. The full list of representatives is on the HQSC website. There has been a lot of discussion and the guidance document, will be consist of six principles:

1. People first
2. Leadership
3. Education & Training
4. Risk Assessment
5. Care Planning and Implementation
6. Continuity of Care

The fine tuning of the criteria is in progress. I would like to thank all our members who have provided feedback for the early drafts, the Agencies have remarked on our engagement in the process. The Guidance document will be sent out for discussion in the near future. The NZWCS, as leaders in this field, are an important cog in this wheel and we should be providing expert comment. Keep it up!  
Concurrently HQSC has established another panel to look at measurement and data collection nationally. If we cannot measure, we cannot see if all the new strategies have improved in practice, so these projects need to run concurrently. The accurate measurement will also help us to truly understand the extent of the problem in New Zealand. "Developing a national approach to the measurement and reporting of pressure injuries" has been released on the HQSC Website. I would encourage you all to feedback. This is our chance to bring about change in the health sector and benefit for our patients. The Agencies are listening, so let's make this guidance the best we possibly can. I am excited about the year ahead and what we can do working with the Agencies. So let's all get on board and feedback = agree, challenge, question.  
Pam Mitchell (Member NZWCS PIAG)

## What's On

### Wounds International Global Webcast - Thursday 24 November 2016

- Achieving a step change in pressure ulcer reduction
- Advances in pressure-relieving surfaces — a new care delivery mode [click here](#) for times, speaker details and for registration

### NZWCS 8th National Wound Conference 2017

- Where - Energy Events Centre - Rotorua
- When - Thursday 18 - Saturday 20 May 2017

- Theme - 'Clearing the Air – dispelling myths and misconceptions in wound care'



15 October - [Southland Study](#) 1/2 Day - 9am-12.30pm  
18 - 20 Oct - Wendy White Seminar Akld, Wgtn & Dndn - Fully booked  
5 November - Otago Study Day '[Ulcer, Dermatitis, Dressings and so much more](#)'  
17 November - STOP PI Day [Pressure Injury Awareness Day](#) - local events across NZ check with your Area Coordinator for details  
29 November - Taranaki Education Evening - 'PI vs IAD'

#### SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS FOR TISSUE ISSUE 2017

- Feb / Mar 2017 - Adjunctive Therapies
- April / May 2017 - Antimicrobials - Dressings / Honey
- Jun / July 2017 - Podiatry
- Aug / Sept 2017 - Oedema
- Oct / Nov 2017 - Pressure Injury Awareness
- Other topics to be covered include - Nutrition, Negative Pressure, MDT Approach etc.

To contact the New Zealand Wound Care Society please email [administrator@nzwcs.org.nz](mailto:administrator@nzwcs.org.nz)  
Email all contributions to future newsletters 2 weeks before issue release.  
More in-depth information is available on [www.nzwcs.org.nz](http://www.nzwcs.org.nz)

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