

BRIDGING THE GAP The impact of chronic oedema education and service redesign

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Aim

To describe how reflection and education has led to service improvement for chronic oedema.

The case study demonstrates the impact of such improvements on an individual's quality of life.

Method

- With the launch of a new Tissue Viability led leg ulcer service, gaps in service and skill-mix for chronic oedema management became apparent
- In response, 3 clinicians enrolled for a university accredited chronic oedema module to develop their knowledge and clinical skills
- The course supported audit of service provision, which further highlighted gaps in service

Case study

The care of Mr. S, illustrates the impact of the skills obtained on the course:

History

Medical history - CVA, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, gout, previous cellulitis

Oedema history - 15-20 year history of bilateral chronic oedema, posterior and anterior left leg ulceration

Mr S concerned about the possibility of amputation

A programme of care was commenced incorporating skin/wound care and cohesive inelastic compression bandaging*



Results

Left leg circumference reductions in 15 days:
Dorsum 7.5cm, ankle 13cm, calf 14cm

Right leg Circumference reductions in 6 days:
Dorsum 4cm, ankle 13cm, calf 10cm

Mr S was then measured for made to measure hosiery**



Audit results

The audit results have been presented to the CCG and funding is being discussed to bridge gaps, working jointly with the Lymphoedema service to provide seamless chronic oedema care.

Conclusion

Identifying and addressing gaps in service and knowledge has led to improved quality of life for Mr S. Many others will in turn benefit due to changes to care delivery.