MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Summer and fall have hurried by and the winter months are once again upon us. Despite the unpredictable weather, the South West Regional Wound Care Program’s (SWRWCP) Strategic Steering Committee (SSC) and Collaboratives have continued to move forward with projects relevant to the Program’s Vision, “Integrated, evidence-informed skin and wound care every person, every health care sector, every day”.

EDUCATION

The delivery of in-person education was a priority this year. In July the Program Team delivered four hands-on skin, wound and ostomy skills workshops, two for Registered Nurses and Registered Practical Nurses and two for Personal Support Workers. Facilitated by Enterostomal Therapists (ET) and Wound Care Specialist nurses who work in the South West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), a total of 102 healthcare providers were trained in skills such as basic skin, wound, ostomy and/or nail care.

In August, the SWRWCP hosted a ‘Best Practice Guideline Champion (BPG) Level One Workshop’, facilitated by the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario and attended by 56 registered healthcare providers working in the South West LHIN. Participants learned strategies to help them implement best practices in their respective workplaces and specifically discussed how to evaluate evidence, assess practice in their workplaces and how to plan for implementing BPGs. Despite wintery road conditions, 53 registered healthcare providers attended a one day “Update: Best Practices in Wound Care” refresher workshop in Stratford, facilitated by the Canadian Association of Wound Care (CAWC). Participants were introduced to the CAWCs new Wound Management Cycle and updated CAWC Best Practice Recommendation documents, and were taken through a series of case studies to assist them with best practice implementation.

In addition to in-person education, the SWRWCP launched our ‘Educational Resource Hub’ in October. This website contains a series of five short skills videos, an e-module on wound assessment and pressure injury staging, and it hosts our new dressing selection e-tool.

LEADING PRACTICE

The SWRWCP embarked on a number of pilots over the past few months, including a standardized Wound Care Flow Sheet PDSA involving the Complex Continuing Care Unit at Woodstock General Hospital (WGH) and select units at Woodingford Lodge in Woodstock. The Program Team also coordinated a hospital data logistics and wound indicator feasibility PDSA, in collaboration with WGH, which will inform the development of a Hospital Data Collection and Management Strategy, and has recently moved forward with a remote regional ET consultation pilot, involving St. Elizabeth Health Care, Greenwood Court, McCormick Home and Mount Hope Centre for Long Term Care (LTC). This pilot will test the feasibility of a centralized regional virtual consultation model for ET services within the LTC Home setting.
SUCCESS STORY: PRESSURE INJURY PREVENTION AT THE FORDWICH VILLAGE NURSING HOME

Recent Health Quality Ontario data (2010/2011-2014/15) revealed that The Fordwich Village Nursing Home (FVNH) has consistently been below both the South West Local Health Integration Network’s (LHIN) average and Provincial average for the combined indicators of percentage of long-term care (LTC) home residents who developed a new stage 2 or 3 pressure injury or had an existing pressure injury that worsened to stage 2, 3, or 4. So how does this Home achieve such great outcomes for its residents? The Program Team reached out to their Director of Care Susan Jaunzemis for details.

The FVNH is a small, rural LTC Home (33 beds) in northern Huron County. The Wound Committee of the FVNH is a collaborative multidisciplinary team consisting of Registered Practical Nurses (RPN), Personal Support Workers (PSW), a Registered Dietitian (RD) and a Physiotherapy Assistant (PTA). The Committee, in existence for the past two years, meets monthly to discuss skin and wound care related issues in the Home, plan educational opportunities for staff, and to inform policy and practice change.

PSWs are the key to providing consistent quality care at the FVNH. The eyes and ears of the Registered Staff, PSWs are quick to report new skin integrity issues to provide optimal skin hygiene to prevent the development of wounds. PSWs also contribute to pressure injury prevention by taking care to transfer, position and reposition residents safely, timely and effectively, facilitate prompt wound dressing and regular toileting, and provide proper incontinence care. PSWs also contribute to care planning discussions and have suggested preventative initiatives such as the elimination of scented bath washes.

The Home’s RD collaborates with the Home’s staff and residents to develop and implement interventions to both prevent and manage nutrition related issues of the residents. A form, created by the RD to track all residents with or at risk for impaired skin integrity, is completed by the RD monthly and outlines the various individualized nutrition interventions in place for each resident – this form is kept with all other skin care information at the nurses’ station and is available to all staff members.

The Home’s PTA regularly attends the Wound Committee meetings so that she can keep informed of what residents have skin and/or wound issues so that she may adapt her physio routine to best meet the resident’s needs. In regards to skin and wound health, the PTA assists with facilitating seating, wheelchair, walker, and therapeutic surface assessments. She also utilizes ultrasonic therapy to address resident’s pain, implements gentle range of motion exercise routines and maintains programs for walking, which all promote optimal skin health.

ASK AN EXPERT: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PROGRAM’S MAIN WEBSITE AND THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE HUB WEBSITE?

Launched in October 2016, the SWRWCP’s Educational Resource Hub, found at www.woundtoolkit.ca, is a collection of elite resources, created by SWRWCP Collaborative members, including skin and wound care related skills videos, an interactive wound assessment and pressure injury staging e-module and an electronic dressing selection tool.

The purpose of developing these specialized educational resources and locating them on a separate site, was to incentivize healthcare organizations to initiate or to continue financing the SWRWCP. This means that only healthcare providers who work for organizations that financially sponsor the SWRWCP, will have access to the exclusive resources. Collaborative members will continue to add to these resources, with plans to add additional skills videos, e-modules and dressing selection algorithms over the next year. In comparison, the SWRWCP’s primary website, found at www.swrwcp.ca, continues to be available to anyone with internet access, and continues to contain up-to-date wound assessment, management and prevention guidelines, algorithms and tools, enables materials to help with staff education (i.e. Power Point presentations, games and handouts), self-care dressing guides, patient pamphlets, and lists of links to articles and documents of interest, Wound Care Champions, and relevant services in the South West LHIN. The original website, which recently received a ‘face-lift’, also continues to list of skin and wound care related educational events and programming and provides users with the opportunity to ‘Ask an Expert’, should they have questions that the website’s contents do not answer. Collaborative members will continue to work on resources for the SWRWCP’s primary website, with plans to add additional guidelines, tools, and educational materials in the coming year and with recently updated patient pamphlets to upload in the immediate future.

Not sure if you qualify for free access to the Educational Resource Hub? Connect with crystal.mccallum@sw.ccac-ont.ca to find out. Want to learn more about how you can become a financial sponsor of the SWRWCP? Connect with samantha.cofwell@sw.ccac-ont.ca.
Nicole Wood is one of the newest Wound Care Specialist (WCS) nurses in the southwest region. A graduate of the University of Calgary (BSc in Primatology and BSc in Biological Science) and Lakehead University (BScN), Nichole is currently working on her Masters in Science in Wound Healing and Tissue Repair from Cardiff University in Wales. The title of Nichole’s thesis was, “Primary Health Care Providers Educational Needs and Barriers Regarding the Prevention and Management of Diabetic Foot Ulcers”, a project she completed by collaborating with the SWRWCP. Nichole’s work history includes positions on the Cardiology and Stroke Units at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre and at London Health Sciences Centre on the Intensive Care Unit. Currently Nichole is working as a WCS nurse for the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) Middlesex-Elgin branch. Her role involves collaborating with physicians, nurses, members of the interdisciplinary team, and patients and their caregivers in the development of treatment plans in an effort to meet patient specific goals for wound management. She also participates in the orientation process for new VON hires and with the development of wound care related skills for existing VON staff. Nichole is also working with the VON to improve upon existing wound care related resources for nursing staff and to create resources where gaps exist, such as product information sheets, best practice reviews, etc. Nichole is a dynamic nurse and an inspirational wound care leader.

COMING EVENTS


FEB 15 A Cost-Effective Alternative to Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (BSN sponsored webinar) WEBINAR (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9163288504496593923)

FEB 24 Wound Care Beyond the Basics: Prevention as Part of Safe Care ETOBICOKE (https://ers.snapuptickets.com/UHN/WoundCare2017)

FEB 27 Chronic Edema: Meeting the Needs of the Challenging Patient (3M sponsored workshop) LONDON (http://sciencecentre.3mcanada.ca/sc/compression/)

FEB 26-MAR 03 Best Practices in Wound Care Institute: Clinical and Program Planning Streams (RNAO event) NIAGARA FALLS (http://rnao.ca/events/wound-care-institute-leadership)

MAR 01 Shining the Light on Pediatric Wound Care: Going Green (BSN Medical sponsored webinar) WEBINAR (http://bsntraining.ca/en/home/)

MAR 06 Plastic Surgery and Wound Care: What Every Family Physician Should Know LONDON (insert link)

MAR 07 The Gold Standard of Off-Loading with an Advanced Amniotic Allograft (Derma Sciences sponsored webinar) WEBINAR (insert link)

MAR 23 Chronic Leg Edema: A Diagnostic and Therapeutic Challenge (for Family Physicians) STRATFORD (insert link)

MAR 29 Peripheral Arterial Disease and Other Topics: A Vascular Surgery Primer (for Family Physicians) LONDON (insert link)

MAR 31 & APR 01 Electrical Stimulation Therapy Workshop, LONDON WORKSHOP (lmacrae3@uwo.ca)

APR 03 The Role of the Family Physician in the Assessment and Management of the Diabetic Foot WALKERTON (insert link)

APR 21 OntWIG’s 7th Annual Symposium BURLINGTON (http://ontwig.ca/7th-annual-symposium/)

MAY 25-28 Canadian Association of Enterostomal Therapy’s 36th National Conference LONDON (insert link)