An evaluation of the role of an active debridement system within a First Dressing Initiative

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Introduction
- Community nurses regularly face the dilemma upon attending a patient in their own home who present with an unexpected wound, as they don't carry stocks of suitable dressings to enable them to commence treatment straight away.
- There is a delay in the availability of treatment, which will result in a delay in the healing process.
- The first dressing initiative was piloted in a rural area of North West Wales and was evaluated as a great benefit to both the community nurses and their patients, and the initiative was therefore rolled out to all the community teams in Gwynedd.

Results
- Following analysis of the data collection forms the District Nurses responded overwhelmingly that the active debridement system would have a useful place within the first dressing initiative.
- The reason for this was that it improved visualisation and therefore accurate assessment of the wound.
- This also led to a reduced debridement time and a quicker move to the next stage of the wound healing process.

Conclusions
- Having access to dressings via a first dressing initiative is both beneficial for the nurse and patient.
- It saves time for the nurses, and dressings are instantly available to meet the needs of the patient.
- Immediate and accurate wound assessment is also of significant importance to the practitioner and it is felt that this study clearly demonstrated the important role of an active debridement system within a first dressing initiative in achieving this goal.
- The benefit of having this available within the first dressing initiative meant that the product was immediately available as and when required and with the added benefit of no wastage.

Discussion
- In the current political agenda, requiring clearly defined care pathways and meeting defined objectives, it is felt that the active debridement system plays an important part in assisting the practitioner to, on many occasions, instantly remove soft, non-viable tissue that would otherwise have taken varying lengths of time to remove depending on the debridement method chosen.
- Rapid debridement will allow better visualisation of the wound bed and allow the wound to progress quickly through this phase of healing to the next, enabling clear follow on wound management objectives to be set.
- Rapid removal of non-viable tissue also enables practitioners to more accurately categorise pressure ulcers as they are able to visualise the full extent of the wound, again of vital importance in the current climate and pressure ulcer documentation.

Method
- The aim of this work was to evaluate the role of an active debridement system within the selection of wound dressings available in the first dressing box.
- A data collection form was developed and two District Nurse bases within the first dressing initiative area were asked to participate in the study.
- In total 16 evaluations were completed and the results were collated by the Tissue Viability Nurse.

First Dressing Initiative

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