

An audit of the use of compression hosiery kits as first line treatment of patients with leg ulceration in leg ulcer clinics

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Background

- The VENUS IV trial concluded that hosiery kits had comparable outcomes to 4 layer bandaging and the patients had reduced recurrence rates (Ashby et al 2014). In our clinics, hosiery kits were used only when ulcers were healing as a step down and prior to commencing maintenance hosiery
- Hosiery kits are ideal for less complex patients and are easier to apply and remove for nurses and carers
- Reducing the need for bandaging also reduces the number of clinic visits required by the patient
- When referring patients on to Practice Nurses, assessment was carried out in the specialist clinic and follow up carried out by the practice nurses when patient were wearing hosiery



Aim and Method

- The Aim of this audit was to assess the use of hosiery kits* as a first line treatment for patients with leg ulceration in order to help release nursing time and improve patient outcomes
- A pre-audit of 20 patients was carried out to establish a baseline prior to implementing the change in practice
- For the period of the audit they remained under the care of the leg ulcer clinic for the purpose of evaluation. However, when the audit was completed, patients were discharged back to the care of the Practice Nurse
- Education has been provided for the District Nursing teams to use hosiery kits as first line when appropriate

Benefits of Hosiery Kits for staff and patients

I can get my shoes on again!

Happy clinic staff!

Improved Mobility and calf muscle pump

More comfortable for the patient

Patients are happier

Improved job satisfaction

Results and Conclusion

- The post implementation audit demonstrated that patients who were placed into hosiery kits had 17% shorter waiting times for referrals from 29 days down to 25 days
- Average healing times reduced by 47% from 55 days down to 29 days
- **Conclusion:** This change in practice has allowed clinicians to treat a greater number of patients with a simpler system, requiring less nurse time and clinic visits
- The improvements in outcomes have more than justified the benefits of compression hosiery kits as a first line treatment and not a step down product