Chronic Wounds in Rural Areas

- Prevalence Ulcus cruris 0.6% up to 12.6%\(^1\), Pressure ulcer 11.7%\(^2\).
- Clear pathway for community treatment could lead to time-to-heal reduction from 51.5 weeks down to 20.9 weeks and potential cost reductions of 75%\(^3\).
- Nurse-led clinics have been found to enhance patients’ quality of life while providing affordable access to healthcare:
  - Adult patients with Type II Diabetes were found to have better control of hypertension and hyperlipidemia in a nurse-led clinic when compared to conventional follow-up care\(^5\).
  - Most patients experienced improved outcomes following nurse-led clinic consultation, with the best improvement rates found for wound care and continence clinics\(^6\).
  - Nurse-led clinics have also been associated with enhanced patient satisfaction with care\(^6\).
  - Nurse-led heart failure clinics improve survival and self-care behavior in patients with heart failure: Mortality rate decreased by 25% in the first year\(^7\).

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Nurse-led Clinics - Advanced Practice Nursing

Definition
• Outpatient clinic or office that is managed by Registered nurses or advanced practice nurses (ANP).
• Own patient case-loads, provide an educative role to patients, promote health, provide psychological support, monitor the patient’s condition and perform nursing interventions.
• Advanced registered nurses (i.e. nurse practitioners) may have expanded roles
• ANPs often are specialized in one scientific field of nursing (i.e. Geriatrics, HIV, Wound care etc.)

Overview
• Nurse led clinics/ANP were originally discussed in nursing journals in the 1980s, and developed over the 1990s. However, that growth has been unequal across different countries.
• ANPs are established in Anglo-Saxon countries as well as in Belgium, Netherlands and Scandinavia, currently developed in Switzerland and Austria.
• Nurse-led clinics typically focus on chronic disease management: conditions where regular follow-up and expertise is required, but also where a patient may not necessarily need to see a physician at every visit.

PICO™- Single Use Negative Pressure Wound Therapy

Instead of a bulky canister, an advanced dressing manages the fluid and distributes the -80mmHg pressure across the wound bed. PICO is lightweight (84 g inkl. batteries), single patient use and disposable after 7 days.

Examples of appropriate wound types include:
✓ Chronic
✓ Incision sites
✓ Acute
✓ Traumatic
✓ Sub-acute and dehisced wounds
✓ Partial-thickness burns
✓ Ulcers (such as diabetic or pressure)
✓ Flaps and grafts
✓ Dermal substitutes

PICO™ - Helping to reduce the human and economic cost of wounds

For patients. For budgets. For today.
NPWT: National Study Germany

GBA: decides over the benefits catalog for ambulatory care, especially for NPWT, because the current studies didn't provide a clear picture.

- Social health insurance fund (AOK-BV, vdek, Knappschaft) organized a big tender to create evidence that NPWT is beneficial and will be reimbursed.

- Joint effort of CRO (IFOM), management company (GFL), industry (Smith & Nephew and KCI) (2011-2014)

- RCT for two indications (diabetic foot ulcer/iatrogenic abdominal wound) with 500 patients in the study and approx. 7,000 patients in managed care contract.

Project Proposal

- Leverage G-BA (Federal Joint Committee) study on NPWT to determine success factors / pathways in the community and roll out in Europe.

Deliverables:

- Prove that PICO allows for easy dressing changes by nurse / patient / relatives
- Develop nurse led practices to provide high quality healthcare structure in rural areas
- Define qualification and clinical protocol
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