Information and Objectives

European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing - From Plan to Action
Brussels, Tuesday 3 April 2012

European Wound Management Association (EWMA)

- Founded in 1991
- Multidisciplinary organisation for clinicians (doctors and nurses) actively involved in wound care

Umbrella Organisation for
- 47 national wound management associations in 35 European countries

Partnering with
- 15 international associations working in wound management or closely related healthcare topics
About EWMA

EWMA works with

... Non-healing wounds, which are a consequence of another underlying disease and primarily affects elderly people thus significantly reduce healthy life years

" 'Non-healing wounds' or 'Problems wounds' are wounds not responding to normal treatment and represent a problem for the patient - it reduces the quality of life, but might not necessarily reduce the life expectancy."

(Definition: Prof. Finn Gottrup 1999)
How important are wounds?

- In the industrialised world, 1-1½ % of the population has a problem wound at one time in their life.
- The average cost of a wound in Europe is 6,650 € for leg ulcers and 1,000 € for foot ulcers. This accounts for 2-4 % of the total health care budget. These costs will increase significantly in the coming years if no action is taken.
- It is estimated that between 25-50% of acute hospital beds are occupied by patients with a wound.
- One in every six people with diabetes develops at least one foot ulcer during their lifetime. Foot problems are thus the most common reason for admission to hospital for people with diabetes.
- Research indicates that between 40% and 70% of all lower extremity amputations are related to diabetes, of which 85% are preceded by foot ulcers.
- In Italy for example, almost 20% of patients in a homecare setting have a pressure ulcer with the prevalence as high as 42% in intensive areas in Southern Italy and the islands.

References:
Purwins, Sandra; Herberger, Katharina; Dubus, Elke Sebastian; Rasche, Stephan J. Peters, Peter; Raue, Gerhard; Schaeve, Elmar; Slader. Cost of illness of chronic leg ulcers in Germany. International Wound Journal, 2010; 7 – 97-102.
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Objectives towards EWMA participation in AHAIP

- Improve the Quality of Life for patients and increase healthy life years
- Promote the use of multidisciplinary approaches in healthcare settings on the basis of proven results within wound care projects
- Investigate the role of E-health and telemedicine as a mean of improving patient-centred outcomes
- Provide documentation through data catch
- Improve research collaboration
- Improve treatment practices and organisation of care
- Include health economics aspects in decision-making
Selected Accomplishments

• Hearing partner of the European Commission on Survey to Member States on Patient Safety, April 2011

• Publication of "Outcomes in controlled and comparative studies on non-healing wounds – Recommendations to improve quality of evidence in wound management" (Gottrup, Apelqvist, Price; JWC, June 2010)

• Provider of advisory and endorsement of wound management education and training in Europe

• Implementation of Clinical Guidelines for Leg Ulcer in Poland, Slovakia, Check republic, Hungary, Austria and Slovenia

• Initiative on the development of National Wound Management Associations in Russia and Neighbouring Countries