



## Topic Brief: Current Wound Care Best Practices

**Date:** 7/13/2022

**Nomination Number:** 0975

**Purpose:** This document summarizes the information addressing a nomination submitted on May 30, 2022, through the Effective Health Care Website. This information was used to inform the Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) Program decisions about whether to produce an evidence report on the topic, and if so, what type of evidence report would be most suitable.

**Issue:** The nominator of this topic expressed a desire to learn more about the latest information on caring for wounds such as pressure injuries and arterial, venous, and diabetic wounds.

**Findings:** The EPC program develops systematic reviews to inform healthcare decision-making by clinical professional groups, clinicians, healthcare organizations, patients, and others. Because the nominator for this topic did not desire a systematic review or other EPC program evidence product, and because no partner organization was identified, no product will be developed.

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### Background

The care of wounds (including pressure injuries and arterial, venous, and diabetic wounds) is a complex subject that presents numerous challenges for patients and healthcare professionals. The nature of wound care is dependent upon a number of factors, including but not limited to the acute or chronic nature of the wound, and the patient's comorbid conditions; the patient's pain level and need for pain management; the placement of the wound; and the severity of the wound (including whether it is infected).<sup>1,2</sup>

A 2018 analysis found that approximately eight million Medicare beneficiaries in the United States experienced wounds annually.<sup>3</sup> Wound care is an expensive area of care; pressure ulcers alone cost over 11 billion annually in the United States. As this sector continues to grow, the annual wound care products market is expected to reach 15 to 22 billion by 2024.<sup>4</sup>

### Nomination Summary

While our team did not identify any recent reports or guidelines available from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality or Cochrane Collaboration, we did find a few resources for the nominator (see below). The EPC program will not develop an evidence product for this topic because the nominator communicated via email that they simply wanted additional information about wound care rather than an evidence product, and no partner organization was identified to take on this topic.

## References

1. WoundSource Practice Accelerator's Blog. Complications in Chronic Wound Healing and Associated Interventions. 2018. <https://www.woundsource.com/blog/complications-in-chronic-wound-healing-and-associated-interventions>. Accessed on 07/29/2022.
2. Richardson C. An introduction to the biopsychosocial complexities of managing wound pain. *J Wound Care*. 2012 Jun;21(6):267-8, 70-3. doi: 10.12968/jowc.2012.21.6.267. PMID: 22886291.
3. McKesson Medical-Surgical Inc. The State of Wound Care. 2021. <https://mms.mckesson.com/resources/wound-care/the-state-of-wound-care>. Accessed on 07/29/2022.
4. Sen CK. Human Wounds and Its Burden: An Updated Compendium of Estimates. *Adv Wound Care (New Rochelle)*. 2019 Feb 1;8(2):39-48. doi: 10.1089/wound.2019.0946. PMID: 30809421.

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**Conflict of Interest:** None of the investigators have any affiliations or financial involvement that conflicts with the material presented in this report.

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