

LEG ULCER IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT: PREVALENCE AND IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

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Aim: In Portugal the care of patients with leg ulcerations has not been a priority and lacks an evidence base. This leads to many patients with chronic wounds being referred to hospitals, rather than being cared for in the community, and maintained in the clinics for prolonged periods. It was therefore considered appropriate to implement a leg ulcer project in order to improve practice.

The Objectives of this project were provide continuity of care by:

- Developing and implementing evidence based wound care protocols and practices.
- Developing a multidisciplinary and holistic team approach

Material and methods: The project took place in the most elderly district of Portugal and started with a prevalence study followed by an implementation phase with introduction of new practices and acquisition of manual dopplers and compression bandages.

Results: 109 patients were identified in the prevalence study, most of them were under the community care (83%) and 17% were in patient. In terms of duration the median was a 5, 37 (2 a 24) months. In one year of implementation 75 ulcers healed.

Conclusion: Rationalisation of leg ulcer services has resulted in improvements in practice with better patients outcomes.