

## **PATIENT'S WOUND CARE PRODUCT AVAILABILITY IN FINLAND – CONTROLLED QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY IN YEARS 2006-2007**

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The costs of wound care products are often solely covered by the patients themselves in most parts of Finland. This leads to uneven use of modern wound care products and can be involved in delayed wound care.

Finnish Wound Care Society organised together with 14 universities of applied sciences a pre-tested questionnaire study, which covered the information of the use and distribution of the wound care products and compression therapy for ulcer patients in Finnish municipalities.

The study was conducted between April 2006 and April 2007 by student nurses from different parts of the country.

The study information collected covered 56% of the Finnish population. According to the study there are no rules at the moment in most of the communities concerning the free availability of modern wound management products to the patients. Only 15, 9% of health care centres informed that they gave products free of charge to all wound care patients. Even 48, 8% of health care centres informed that patients can receive wound management products free of charge after the wound has been open for more than 3 months.

This unfair practise will be presented in January 2008 to the Finnish minister of social and health services to organise free and fair distribution of wound care products to every wound patient in our country.

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