



Wound Care -Pressure Sore, Pressure Ulcers

Wounds vary in nature, location on the body and severity and are treated differently. A number of factors determine how treatment is to be provided that include severity of the wound, infection, and health of the individual. Due to the size of the province there are different methods of managing and prescribing treatments.

Hospitals in the major centers have Wound Clinics whereas, smaller communities have Registered Nurses (RN) and home care professionals who work in conjunction with Enterostomal Therapy (ET) nurses who manage the direction of the care of wounds. With the exception of Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA); see below, Interior Health (IH), Fraser Health (FH), Northern Health (NH), Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) authorities use a Pixalere photography system where pictures are taken of the wound by community nurses and sent to a central wound clinic for evaluation. Depending on the wound, there may be a team consisting of a doctor, a wound care specialist, occupational therapist, and a nutritionalist who do a wound care plan for the individual.

In a major centers

Individuals with wounds are admitted into the system in a variety of ways that include a visit to their family doctor, a referral from a home and community care worker or through admittance to Emergency. In cases where a person is unable to leave their home, or they do not have a family physician, they can contact the local Central Intake who will refer a Registered Nurse(RN) to visit the individual to do an assessment. The RN will then determine, on their own experience or with assistance from the ET, the course of action to deal with the wound. This action could mean home treatment or hospitalization depending on the severity of the wound or if the wound has turned septic. In extreme cases, a flap surgery may be needed to intervene the healing procedure. In cases of surgery, there will be a hospital stay followed by a plan for return home. In larger health authorities, such as Fraser Health, the nurses or care attendants attending patients in their home use the Pixalere system to send pictures of the wound to the ET specialist in the Ostomy department at the hospital in their district so the wound can be evaluated.

In smaller communities

Individuals living small communities that do not have hospitals have health units that are manned by part time nurses. Depending on the size of the community, they may have an RN on staff who will visit the individual to determine a plan of action. The RN would use the Pixalere system where necessary. Smaller communities have a health unit that has a part time nurse who will use the Pixalere system to have the wound evaluated at the closest Wound unit. Depending on the advice of the ET specialist in the hospital, the individual may be treated at home in his small community or transferred to the hospital.

Rural living

Living in a rural setting has many challenges as many smaller communities have only a community health nurse. Home and community services throughout the province have distance restrictions and people living outside the boundaries must go to a major centre for treatment. This would include dressing changes or being admitted to the hospital.

VIHA

VIHA has four centers that deal with wound care. Where possible, an individual is recommended to see their family physician first. In cases where an individual cannot get to his doctor, or does not have a doctor, they can contact the Central Intake at one of the four centers. An RN will then visit them at their home and do a plan of action. Unlike the other health authorities, VIHA does not use the Pixalere system but relies on the skill of the RN. The RNs are from the Home and Community services are familiar with the treatment of wounds in the home. In the VIHA region, everyone will receive a visit from an RN and this includes ongoing treatment in the home no matter how rural.

For further information on SCI BC programs and services check out our website at www.sci-bc.ca

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Hospitals - Wound Care

Fraser Health

Abbotsford (604) 851-4700

Burnaby(604) 434-3211

Chilliwack (604) 795-4141

Delta (604) 946-1121

Port Moody (604) 461-2022

Hope (604) 869-5656

White Rock (604) 541-5837

Maple Ridge (604) 463-4111

New Westminster (604) 520-4253

Surrey (604) 563-7401

Interior Health

Creston (250) 428-2286

Clearwater (250) 674-2244

Cranbrook (250) 426-5281

Fernie (250) 423-5286

Golden (250) 344-9210

Invermere (250) 342-9201

Kelowna (250) 862-4000

Lillooet (250) 256-1300

Nelson (250) 744-8100

Trail (250) 368-3311

Vernon (250) 558-1200

Northern Health

Chetwynd (250) 778-2236

Dawson Creek(250) 782-8501

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Spinal Cord Injury BC 780 SW Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC V6P 5Y7

Fort Nelson (250) 774-8100

Fort St James (250) 996-8201

Fort St John (250) 262-5200

Kitimat (250) 632-2121

McKenzie (250) 997-3263

Prince George (250) 565-2000

Smithers (250) 847-2446

Vancouver Island Health

Campbell River (250) 850-2141

Chemainus (250) 737-2040

Courtenay/Comox (250) 339-2242

Duncan (250) 974-5585

Nanaimo (250) 754-2141

Port Alberni (250) 731-1370

Port Alice (250) 284-3555

Port Hardy (250) 902-6011

Port McNeil (250) 956-4461

Tofino (250) 725-4010

Victoria (250) 370-8715

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