

ABSTRACT: INNOVATIONS

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## Establishment of a Special Wound Care Management unit to reduce workload in surgical units in Base Hospital Balangoda

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**Introduction:** Patients with chronic wounds occupy significant length of stay in surgical wards adding additional cost to the health care budget and workload to the staff.

**Objectives:** To reduce inward admissions with chronic wounds and to promote follow up at peripheral hospitals.

**Methodology:** A discussion was held with the surgical team where it was agreed to have a wound care unit at the OPD. Decided to refer patients from the surgical wards and clinics to the unit and back referral if needed. It was planned to expand the peripheral units for follow up. Well-wishers help was sought in modifying the unit and getting necessary items. Unit was started on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and with the allocation of nursing officers from surgical ward and OPD and functioned from 8.30am to 2.00pm. Selected divisional hospitals were visited to identify the feasibility of referring patients.

**Results:** Seventy-eight patients have been treated up to now and 31 patients has been cured. The commonest presentation was leg ulcers due to venous and neuropathic ulcers. Significant reduction was noted in-patient admissions with chronic wounds (57%) and wound toilets (27%) before and after 3 months of starting the unit. There was much positive feedback from the patients. Identified possible drawbacks were addressed, and rest forwarded for district level. Capacity building programme has been planned for 08.11.2022 to improve and expand the service provision with better coordination with peripheral hospitals. The lack of autoclave facilities, crepe bandages and proper knowledge on wound care were among the identified issues in peripheral hospitals.

**Conclusion:** This special wound care management units have shown positive impact in reducing workload in surgical units and improving quality of care.

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