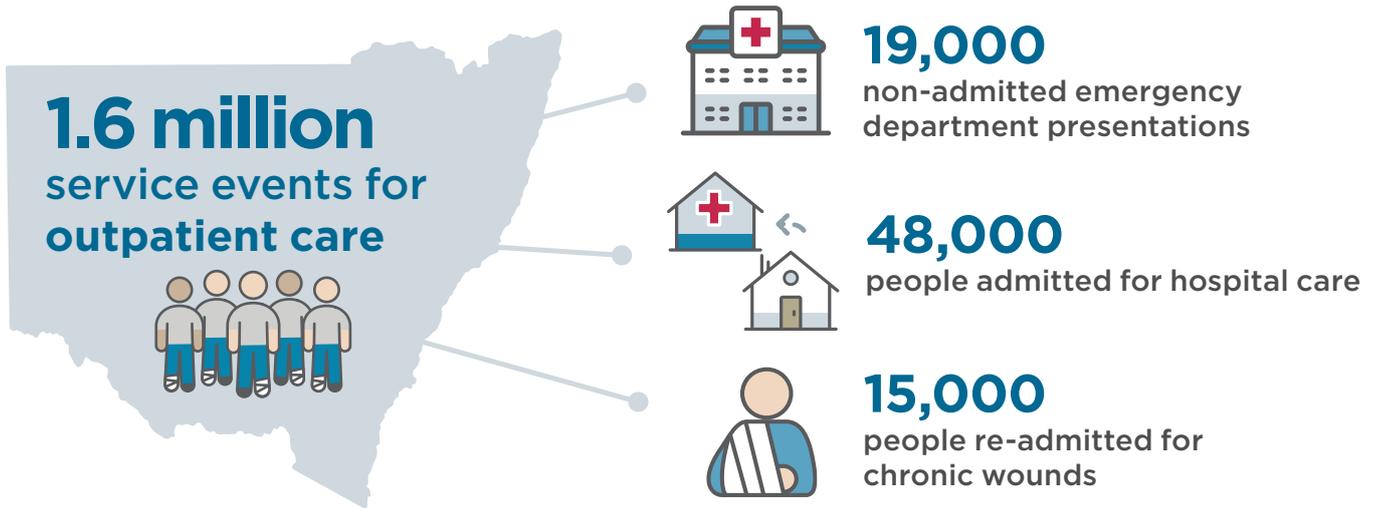


# Chronic wound management

## Clinical priorities

Wound management is provided across all care settings in NSW. The focus of the NSW Leading Better Value Care chronic wound management initiative is to improve the management of wounds that do not heal in a timely manner. These are classed as chronic wounds.



Data source: Linked statewide administrative data 2013-14 to 2016-17, LBVC Standards for Wound Management Sept 2019

## Opportunities to improve the prevention and management of chronic wounds.

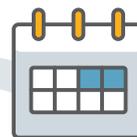
### 1. RISK IDENTIFICATION AND PREVENTION

Identify people at risk of chronic wounds and proactively manage risk factors.



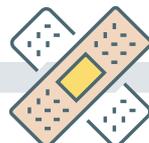
#### ENABLEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Understand the person's goals, abilities, strengths and motivations. Support the person to make informed choices, combining clinical knowledge with an understanding of what matters to them.



### 2. ONGOING HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT

Ensure clinical assessment of the person with a chronic wound is comprehensive and must include physical, psychological and social components. Patient-reported outcome measures should be used to support this.



### 3. TREATMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Agree goals and document a management plan, including wound management, co-morbidities and findings of the comprehensive assessment.

The Agency for Clinical Innovation will support teams across the continuum of care to connect and implement the *LBVC Standards for Chronic Wound Management*.



### **Risk identification and prevention**

- Reduce the risk of developing a chronic wound through early identification of people at risk.
- Ensure comprehensive assessment appropriate to the individual is undertaken, and not limited to the skin and wound.
- Anticipate and manage intrinsic and extrinsic factors that impact on skin integrity.
- Document and implement evidence-based strategies to prevent a wound or progression of a wound.
- Reduce the incidence of chronic wounds by preventing wound complications.
- Coordinate management of co-morbidities that may increase the risk of developing a chronic wound by referring to external specialist services where applicable.



### **Ongoing holistic assessment**

- Ensure the assessment of the person and their wound is accurate, comprehensive and ongoing.
- Conduct diagnostics to determine an accurate wound diagnosis, and ensure findings are documented and communicated to the person and their carer.
- Facilitate rapid referral to specialist wound services for persons requiring tertiary level care by multidisciplinary teams.
- Undertake comprehensive reassessments with all healthcare professionals involved in the person's care regularly and when there is deterioration
- Document and communicate all assessments, management plan and outcomes with the person and their carer.



### **Treatment and management plan**

- Develop mutually agreed measurable goals between the clinician, the person living with a chronic wound and where applicable, their carer.
- Codesign and document a wound management plan involving and accessible to the person and the health care professionals across settings.
- Intervene early in the management of a chronic wound. Consider referral to specialist tertiary services, use of evidence based protocols, underlying social factors and diet.
- Manage comorbidities with strategies that are individualised and aligned with evidence based practice.



### **Enablement and partnerships**

Deliver wound prevention, management and education using a collaborative approach, involving the individual, their family/carers and teams across all care settings; acute, community, primary and residential care.

- Promote shared decision making between the person, their carers/family and the healthcare team.
- Health literacy of the individual is an important consideration, underpinning shared decision making about care and management.
- Provide individuals their families and carers with:
  - education and support
  - the right information at the right time in the right way particularly when transitioning across care settings.
  - ready access to evidence, products and equipment.

## **Evidence**

This document has been developed based on evidence for chronic wound management

1. [NSW Ministry of Health. \*Leading Better Value Care Standards for Wound Management\*. 2019](#)
2. [Wounds Australia. \*Standards for Wound Prevention and Management\*, 3rd edition. Cambridge Media: Osbourne Park, WA: 2016](#)
3. [Wounds UK. \*Best Practice Statement: Improving holistic assessment of chronic wounds\*. London: Wounds UK, 2018.](#)