

Leg Ulcer Project – EPCT West

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Leg ulcers are complex wounds that become more common with age. It is estimated that around 20% of those over the age of 80 will have a venous leg ulcer at some time. Leg ulcers are associated with pain, restricted mobility and a decreased quality of life.

Aim

For 100% of patients with a venous leg ulcer to receive evidenced based leg ulcer care by October 2017

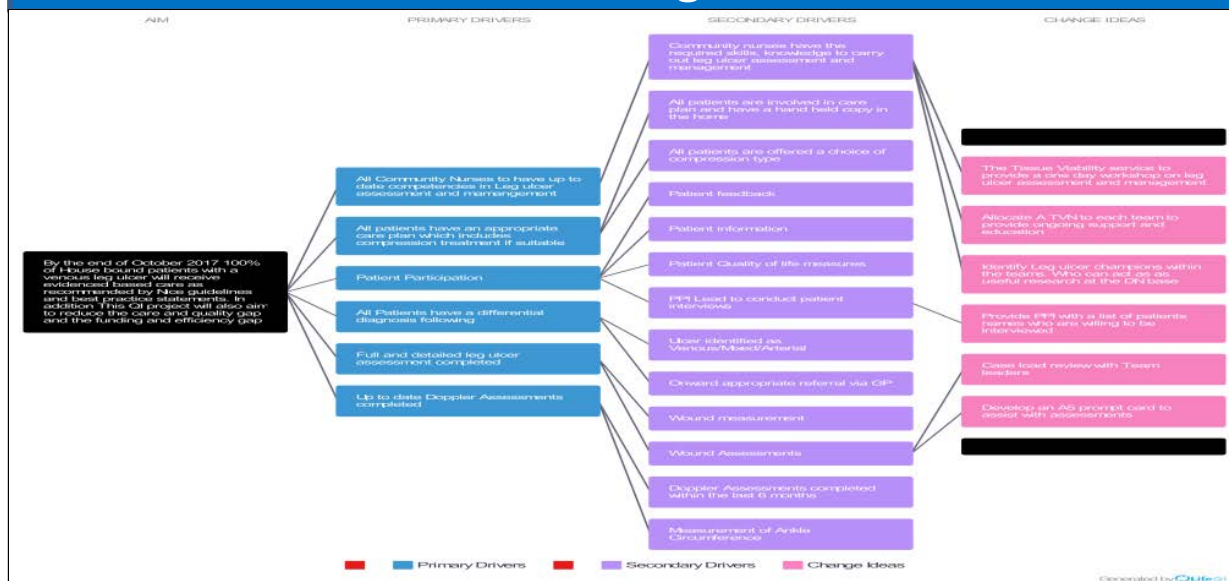
Why is this important to service users and carers?

The cost of treating venous leg ulcers costs the NHS 600 million pounds per annum. Treating venous leg ulcers can be time-consuming and costly, affecting patients' quality of life in terms of pain suffering, low self-esteem, social isolation and loss of independence. Feedback from patients is that care is not always satisfactory. By supporting the district nursing service in delivering the right evidenced based care at the right time we hope to improve the healing rates for house bound service users and improve quality of life for this group of service users. We also hope to maximise resources and utilisation leading to a reduction the number of district nurse visits required.

Tests of Change

- Introduced and set up link nurses
- Allocated a TVN to each link nurse
- Purchased new equipment to aid Doppler Assessment
- Identified Training needs analysis
- Quarterly case load reviews with TV Team/DN Teams

Driver diagram



Data



Learning and what next?

- Holistic leg ulcer assessments lead to the right care being delivered at the right time
- Up to date new technology aids holistic assessment and reduces the time to complete assessments
- With the right treatment in place a reduction in District Nurse Home visits was demonstrated
- The learning will be shared and implemented throughout EPCT District Nurse Services



PRIMARY DRIVERS

SECONDARY DRIVERS

CHANGE IDEAS

By the end of October 2017 100% of House bound patients with a venous leg ulcer will receive evidenced based care as recommended by NICE guidelines and best practice statements. In addition This QI project will also aim to reduce the care and quality gap and the funding and efficiency gap

All Community Nurses to have up to date competencies in Leg ulcer assessment and management

All patients have an appropriate care plan which includes compression treatment if suitable

Patient Participation

All Patients have a differential diagnosis following

Full and detailed leg ulcer assessment completed

Up to date Doppler Assessments completed

Community nurses have the required skills, knowledge to carry out leg ulcer assessment and management

All patients are involved in care plan and have a hand held copy in the home

All patients are offered a choice of compression type

Patient feedback

Patient information

Patient Quality of life measures

PPI Lead to conduct patient interviews

Ulcer identified as Venous/Mixed/Arterial

Onward appropriate referral via GP

Wound measurement

Wound Assessments

Doppler Assessments completed within the last 6 months

Measurement of Ankle Circumference

The Tissue Viability service to provide a one day workshop on leg ulcer assessment and management

Allocate A TVN to each team to provide ongoing support and education

Identify Leg ulcer champions within the teams. Who can act as a useful research at the DN base

Provide PPI with a list of patients names who are willing to be interviewed

Case load review with Team leaders

Develop an A5 prompt card to assist with assessments