Leg Ulcer Prevalence and Management Audit

Audit Aims

To identify current prevalence of patients with leg ulceration within West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust.

To identify by whom and where those patients are currently managed.

To identify where those patients appropriately identified as having venous ulceration are being treated with the current “Gold Standard” care guidelines by NICE/RCN.

To identify how many patients are currently referred to and treated within the Acute Hospital Services, who could be treated solely within West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust.

Criteria

All patients with an active leg ulcer or history of a leg ulcer should receive Doppler assessment every three months.

Patients with venous aetiology should be treated with compression bandaging/hosiery.

Methodology

Questionnaires were sent to 43 Care Homes, 32 District nurse teams and 32 Practice nurse teams within West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust. One form to be completed for each patient with a leg ulcer currently treated on their caseload during the week beginning 30.01.06.

Results

50% of those who were invited to respond did so.

Patient details

106 females, 66 men with leg ulcers
77% of patients were over 70 years of age.

Prevalence

173 patients were recorded as having leg ulcers.
91 (53%) patients had leg ulcers for more than 6 months.

Assessment

125 (75%) patients had been Doppler assessed.
6 refused or found it too painful.

197 (49%) were re-Doppler assessed in 3 months or less.

Aetiology

Venous ulcers 85, mixed ulcers 28, arterial ulcers 15

24 of those patients with confirmed venous aetiology were not being treated with compression therapy.

Dressings

100% Compliance with Wound Formulary Guidelines for West Gloucestershire PCT

Who manages patient on a weekly basis?

56% district nurses
17% practice nurses
14% RGN care homes
1% leg ulcer clinic
8% Shared care nursing staff
4% shared care with leg ulcer clinic.

Number of visits per patient per week

47% once a week
39% twice a week
13% more than twice a week

Patient contacts/Activity time

A total of 278 patient contacts were recorded during the week of the audit.

Activity time (excluding travel time) 140½ hrs. (3.75 whole time equivalent trained staff time)

Staff have recognised the need for leg ulcer patients to be case managed. 23 of the 173 patients are being case managed.

Action Plan

To recommend that the County Primary Care Trust adopt the Leg Ulcer Guidelines/Referral pathway.

To recommend to the Director of Clinical Development that training in Leg ulcer Management and Doppler assessment should be available to all trained nursing staff in West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust dependent on their personal development needs.

To recommend that the County Primary Care Trust considers that leg ulcers are a long term condition and would fit into the case management model.