

Eucomed Advanced
Wound Care Sector
Group (AWCS)



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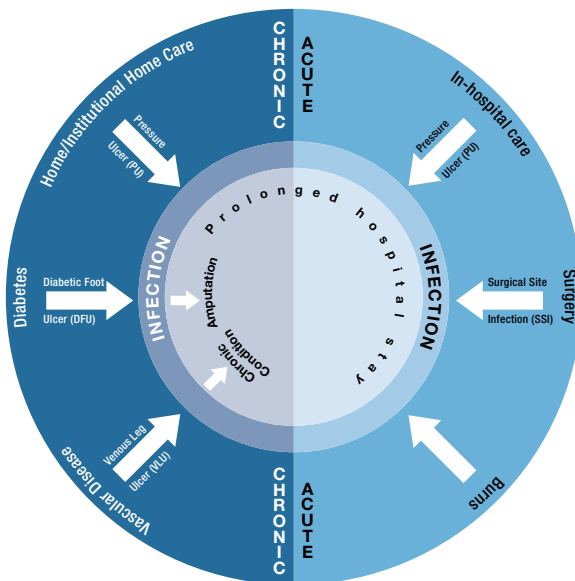


This Sector Group works to raise awareness of the true burden of wounds to patients and to EU Healthcare systems, in order to improve patient outcomes through effective wound care.

Who we are

The Eucomed Advanced Wound Care Sector Group (AWCS) is a working group within Eucomed - the voice of the medical technology industry in Europe. We work closely with the European Wound Management Association (EWMA), the clinical voice of wound care, to ensure that the implications of wounds for both the patient and the clinician are understood.

The causal chain from primary diseases to infected and/or chronic wounds



General Statistics On Acute & Chronic Wound Complications – EU27

1. Acute & Chronic

Prevalence of Wounds:

- 3-4/1000 people

- 1.5-2.0 million of 491 million of EU27 inhabitants

- 4 million individuals would develop a new wound annually

2. Acute

- Between **25-50%** hospital beds occupied by patients with a wound, many of which were developed during hospitalization
- Surgical wound infection is estimated to affect between **30-40 surgical patients per 1000 operations**, and its effects can be life-threatening, particularly in older patients
- Excess mortality among patients contracting a surgical wound infection is **5%**
- Recent surveys of European hospitals show that around one in five patients has a pressure ulcer, **50%-80%** of which are hospital acquired



Wounds have a significant impact on patient health and on the resource costs of healthcare providers. Ensuring wounds are appropriately diagnosed and treated is essential in order to prevent unnecessary suffering for patients, and excess costs to the healthcare system brought about by avoidable events such as surgical infections and hospital-acquired pressure ulcers.

The financial pressure on global healthcare budgets is expected to increase significantly as populations age. Ageing population

is projected to push up health care spending by between 1 and 2% of GDP in most Member States, i.e. an increase by approximately 25% of current spending level. Better wound care provides a means to address some of the forthcoming budget issues by ensuring treatment costs are minimised through effective prevention of wound complications, and through effective diagnosis and treatment.

Source: Projecting future health care expenditure at European level: drivers, methodology and main results, Bartosz Przywara, Economic Papers 417, July 2010, European Commission

What we aim for

- Engage at EU level to **raise awareness** of the significant impact of wound care on healthcare systems.
- Member States and the EU to have **comparative data** across the EU in order to assess the impact of wound care in healthcare systems.
- Improving the **quality of care and patient safety** by training healthcare professionals in wound care.
- The **adoption of wound care practices to help reduce future costs** and improve outcomes for patients including after-care, treatment of wounds and the prevention of wound complications.



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