

NEWS LETTER – OCTOBER 2017

We know from feedback that many of you read the editorials written in the BJN Tissue Viability Supplement written by myself and Jeanette Milne. In the latest one I have highlighted an area that WCAUK members have expressed concern about. The increasing discussions re the numbers of clinical staff available in the NHS and the challenges we face (Stephen-Haynes 2017).

Another area that members have asked about recently is the CQIN for wound assessment within community nursing and I have decided to focus on this with fellow trustee Jackie Griffin for this quarterly newsletter. Many of you will know Jackie in her role as Tissue Viability Clinical Nurse Specialist in Montgomery County Infirmary, Newtown, Powys.

Jackie and I will try to answer some of the queries we have received and are happy to receive more from you.

Firstly, what is a CQIN ?

A CQIN refers to Commissioning for Quality and Innovation. The focus is on being able to demonstrate quality in a quantifiable way. CQIN's have a structure that is planned and delivered within an agreed area of patient care within healthcare with a link to financial incentives. Interestingly CQINs only operated with NHS England. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have devolved health care to the local Governments.

Why a CQIN re chronic wounds ?

The impact of chronic wounds is significant for patients and also has great financial impact and thus the CQIN can achieve the objective of enhancing quality and reducing cost. The chronic wound CQIN provides a clear framework for healthcare practitioners to follow. The focus is on ensuring that a comprehensive assessment based upon a minimum data set is undertaken, documented and followed.

As healthcare providers we should embrace the opportunity to work with the CQIN and use it to demonstrate the need for patients with a non-healing wound for 4 weeks with data relating to all the aspects of the minimum data set. Many of you will be leading or becoming involved in data collection to support the CQIN. There will be an initial scoping audit and further audit to demonstrate the outcomes. The financial aspect of the CQIN will be based upon demonstrating an improvement in the care provided

Why is wound assessment important?

Wound assessment is absolutely essential as assessment and appropriate planning of care is critical to achieve positive clinical and financial outcomes. The real cost of wound care is of course for the patient who has a non-healing wound and the impact of wounds are significant. It is difficult to extrapolate costs within wound care and frequently there is a focus on the cost of specific wound care products, which are only a part of the overall cost. Guest et al (2014) have given a figure of £4.4- 5.1 billion a

year and state that this figure can in part be attributed to poor practices for example inadequate assessment and differential diagnosis, poor exudate management or inadequate recognition of wound infection. All of these directly impact on the well being of the patient and delay wound healing, thus making this CQIN very important.

Will a CQIN improve care?

Within the wound assessment CQIN, clinicians will need to demonstrate that they have undertaken a wound assessment and are delivering appropriate care for 100% of patients. For clinicians achieving this currently then the CQIN may not improve care. Yet the evidence suggests that this does not always happen and thus it is believed that this will contribute to an improvement in care.

The need to demonstrate quality has been key for many years within the NHS and with fewer nurses and indeed less health care professionals there is an increasing emphasis on achieving clinical and financial outcomes. The WCAUK conference has been designed specifically to support clinicians to achieve these outcomes.

Finally the WCAUK is looking for new Trustees. If you are interested you can contact us to discuss all this entails at www.wcauk.org

References

NHS (2017) Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN)

Guest J , Ayoub N, McIlwraith t et al (2015) Health economic burden that wounds impose on the National Health Service.

Stephen-Haynes,J. (2017) The ever-changing climate. British Journal of Nursing 2017, Vol 26, No 15: TISSUE VIABILITY SUPPLEMENT