



EWMA Collaboration with the EUCOMED Advanced Wound Care Sector group (AWCS)

Eucomed is the Voice of the medical technology industry in Europe, representing designers, manufacturers and suppliers of medical technology used in the diagnosis, prevention, treatment and amelioration of disease and disability. The Eucomed AWCS group was established in June 2007 with the support from EWMA. EWMA is a collaborative partner of the group, taking part in all meetings and activities.

Below is a short description of the EWMA involvement in recent and current activities of the group.

Article on '*The resource impact of wounds on health-care providers in Europe*' *Publication in Journal of Wound Care, Vol 18, No 4, April 2009*

In collaboration with the Eucomed AWCS, EWMA has taken part in the publication of a paper in the *Journal of Wound Care* April 2009 on '*The resource impact of wounds on health-care providers in Europe*', based on a screening of existing wound care studies in the European countries. The paper indicates the severe economic impact that problem wounds have on health care systems and underlines the need to create further evidence to support this.

An extended summary will be forwarded to the EWMA Cooperating Organisations with an invitation to translate and publish the article or use it in relation to national activities on policy making etc.

The extended summary is included in the press kit.

The full article can be found at www.journalofwoundcare.com

Meeting with Amalia Sartori, Member of the European Parliament, March 2009

Represented by Luc Gryson, EWMA Treasurer, EWMA participated in a delegation from the Eucomed Advanced Wound Care Sector Group that met with a member of the European Parliament, Amalia Sartori, 17 March 2009.

Ms Sartori is the Parliament's *rapporteur* on the Council Recommendation on Patient Safety. The objective of the meeting was to influence the European policy-making related to ensuring appropriate diagnoses and treatment of problem wounds.

The press release about the meeting, sent out by the Eucomed Office, is included in the press kit.

Wound survey project

In collaboration with EWMA, the Eucomed AWCS group has taken the initiative to propose a number of wound surveys in different European countries. The group will provide a common methodology and standard data collection instruments.

The background for this initiative is that the true significance of wounds is poorly understood because most of the available evidence focuses on the epidemiology and treatment costs of particular wound types, rather than on the resource impact of wounds on the organisations



providing wound care. The AWCS group believes that any sustained improvement in wound care provision requires senior management commitment and aims to deliver the documentation to support their interest in developing the wound care area.

Aims of the project:

- To encourage and support local clinicians to carry out a wound survey in a hospital or community-based healthcare organisation
- The survey will identify the number and type of wounds under treatment and will provide an estimate of the amount of clinician time and inpatient bed-days directly attributable to wound care at an organisational level
- This type of information highlights the importance of specialist wound care expertise, by illustrating the high prevalence of wounds among hospital and community patients and the significant proportion of available resources which are devoted to wound complications, many of which could be avoided