

# The EWMA Patient Outcome Group

– Joining forces to propose functional guidelines for clinical data collection in wound care



**Prof. Finn Gottrup**  
MD, DMSci

Professor of Surgery at Danish Wound Healing Center.  
Specialist in General Surgery and Surgical Gastroenterology.  
President of Danish Wound Healing Society

The EWMA Patient Outcome Group has only existed since October 2008 but is already approaching some of the primary objectives. One of the reasons for the productivity of the group is the member structure; gathering clinical experts from different European countries and representatives from the clinical or regulatory departments of industrial players in the field of wound care.

EWMA aims to push forward activities of common interest with a joint effort. Building consensus amongst central stakeholders is an important basis for the implementation process and crucial to reaching the primary end point:

To propose and implement revised Pan-European evidence guidelines for clinical data collection within the problem wounds area.

Members of the EWMA Patient Outcome Group have agreed that the type of study and outcome of wound treatment is the central issue to be revised for the clinical data collection. The more specific aim is to secure more evidence in wound care, without compromising the quality of the evidence obtained. As an addition to the outcome wound healing, the group also agreed that additional end points like quality of life parameters, infection rate and cost effectiveness need to be considered. Cost effectiveness covers aspects such as the number of dressing changes and staff resources needed. These outcome measures are relevant for the study of treatment structures as well as wound care products.

In order to secure an efficient procedure, members of the Patient Outcome Group have established a number of sub groups, working on different tasks related to the final objective:

Three sub groups are currently active:

## Sub group 1: *Evidence*

Objective: To produce a draft proposal for a definition of meaningful evidence within wound care, usable from the clinical point of view. The group will seek and describe the highest possible standards that will help solve clinical challenges in relation to the testing of medical device products and treatment structures for different types of problem wounds.

## Sub group 2: *Treatment Guidelines Research*

Objective: The group will examine what level of national and evidence based treatment guidelines for wound care exist and are implemented in different European countries. This work aims at a clarification of the degree of standardised treatment in Europe. This knowledge will serve as a basis for the choice of implementation strategy and messages coming out of the group

## Sub group 3: *Implementation*

Objective: The overall objective of the group is to propose ideas for and stimulate implementation of the outcome of the EMWA Patient Outcome Group. In particular, the group will be responsible for developing a strategy for implementation of the revised evidence guidelines coming of out work of the evidence working group. It is the intention to have the evidence guidelines accepted as European guidelines. ■

### Facts about the EWMA Patient Outcome Group

The group was officially established in October 2008.

#### Overall objectives:

1. To identify barriers related to creating and implementation of evidence based guidelines in wound healing.
  2. To propose revised guidelines for clinical data collection for chronic wounds
  3. To participate in public debates and influence national policy making relevant for the chronic wound area.
- To create and implement consensus on clinical data collection within chronic wound care.

#### Clinical/individual members:

Finn Gottrup (Chair), Jan Apelqvist, Luc Gryson, Andrea Nelson, Hugo Partsch, John Posnett, Patricia Price

#### Industry members (representatives from):

BBraun, Coloplast, Convatec, Covidien, KCI, Lohmann & Raucher, Mölnlycke Healthcare