

Creating Champions for Skin Integrity

What was this project about?

Wounds such as skin tears, pressure ulcers and chronic leg ulcers are increasingly common with age and are a serious issue in Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs). The Champions for Skin Integrity project focused on promoting healthy skin through the application of best evidence to prevention, assessment and management of wounds.

The aim of the project was to implement the Champions for Skin Integrity (CSI) model for practice to preserve skin integrity and facilitate evidence based wound management. The CSI model utilised evidence based strategies to facilitate the transfer of evidence into daily practice and included education, resources to provide evidence in easily utilised forms, audit and feedback cycles, clinical decision making support systems, and local Champions and management support. As part of the CSI model, a package of resources - the RACF Wound Management Education and Self-evaluation Resource Package – was developed, trialled and evaluated.

What was done?

The CSI model was implemented in seven participating RACFs, ranging from 20–495 nursing home and/or hostel beds in each facility and situated across metropolitan, outer metropolitan, regional, rural and remote locations. The process of implementation involved three main phases:

- ✿ Development, trialling and refining of the CSI Model and the RACF Wound Management Education and Self-evaluation Resource Package
- ✿ Implementation of CSI Model and Wound Management Education Resource Package
- ✿ Post-Implementation evaluation phase

What Was Achieved?

Following a six month implementation phase, evaluation of outcomes from the project found:

- ✿ increased implementation and documentation of evidence based practices for prevention, assessment and management of wounds
- ✿ decreased prevalence and severity of wounds in residents
- ✿ improved staff skills and knowledge of evidence based wound management
- ✿ increased awareness of residents, family, carers and RACF staff of evidence based wound management and prevention strategies
- ✿ a resource kit on the CSI model and evidence based wound management was developed and could be made available to all Residential Aged Care Facilities. The kits provide information on the roles and processes of the CSI model, the education and self-evaluation interactive DVD and all resource material for use in education and practice.

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