



Project Title: Using audit to explore the impact of a local policy change on the diagnosis of lower leg ulcer aetiology and access to optimal treatment for people on the community nursing caseload in Sydney Local Health District		Code: SNS2
Host School / Institute: Sydney Nursing School	Address: Sydney Nursing School, Camperdown with some days at a community nursing centre in Sydney Local Health District	
Certificates & Clearances required: Yes *Vaccination Certificate *Police clearance <i>Information on how to obtain certificates, where necessary, will be given to successful applicants.</i>		
Primary Supervisor: Dr Sue Randall		
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Co-Supervisor/team: Panagiota Avramidis Clinical Nurse Specialist (Wounds) Sydney District Nursing and Naomi James Acting Clinical Nurse Specialist (Wounds) Sydney District Nursing		
Project Type: Data Analysis; Audit; Literature Review		
Project Category: Nursing; Chronic Diseases/Illness		
Skills / Attributes of a successful student: This project would suit a student who is interested in primary health care and community nursing. Attention to detail is required and the ability to work autonomously (with guidance and support) and in a team. Knowledge and skills in using Excel will be an advantage, but not essential.		
Project Keywords: venous leg ulcers; community nursing; primary health care; equity; access		
<p>Project Description: Be part of a project that makes a difference to people with lower leg ulcers living in their own homes and learn new skills along the way.</p> <p>In 2017, a summer scholar under the supervision of Dr Sue Randall worked in a team which included community specialist wound nurses. An audit tool was created and used. Results showed that 40% of patients with a lower leg ulcer did not have a diagnosis and were therefore on sub-optimal treatment. This led to a change in local policy to allow specialist wound nurses to identify patients for suitability to receive compression therapy following comprehensive assessment including ankle brachial pressure index (ABPI). Furthermore, a planned change in service provision is underway and two publications completed had the summer scholar as author.</p> <p>The time is now right to repeat this audit. We want to assess whether the change in policy has reduced the number of people who received inequitable treatment as a result of diminished access and had been on sub-optimal treatment. Ethics is in place for the repeat audit.</p> <p>Would you like to be part of continuing to make a difference for people with leg ulcers and the nurses who work with them? We hope so. Working on this project offers you the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - working with a friendly and supportive team - a day working with the wound specialist nurses to gain a greater understanding of the key aspects for nurses and patients. - working at Sydney Nursing School, with some days at a community nursing centre and some negotiated days at home - opportunity to search and organise literature - work with data extracted from patient records by the specialist community wound nurses - enter data into excel - opportunity to contribute to data analysis* - opportunity to contribute to report writing and publication* <p>* These activities may fall outside of the timeframe, but if the successful student wishes to continue to contribute they may still be included.</p>		