

Role of Wound Care Coordinating Nurse in the Dialysis Unit

Gribets R. BA¹, Gavish Z. M.A¹, Rafaelov I. M.A¹, Ben Shitrit S. M.A².

¹Rambam Health Care Campus, Department of Nephrology and Hypertension, Haifa, Israel

²Rambam Health Care Campus, Department of Plastic Surgery, Haifa, Israel

BACKGROUND

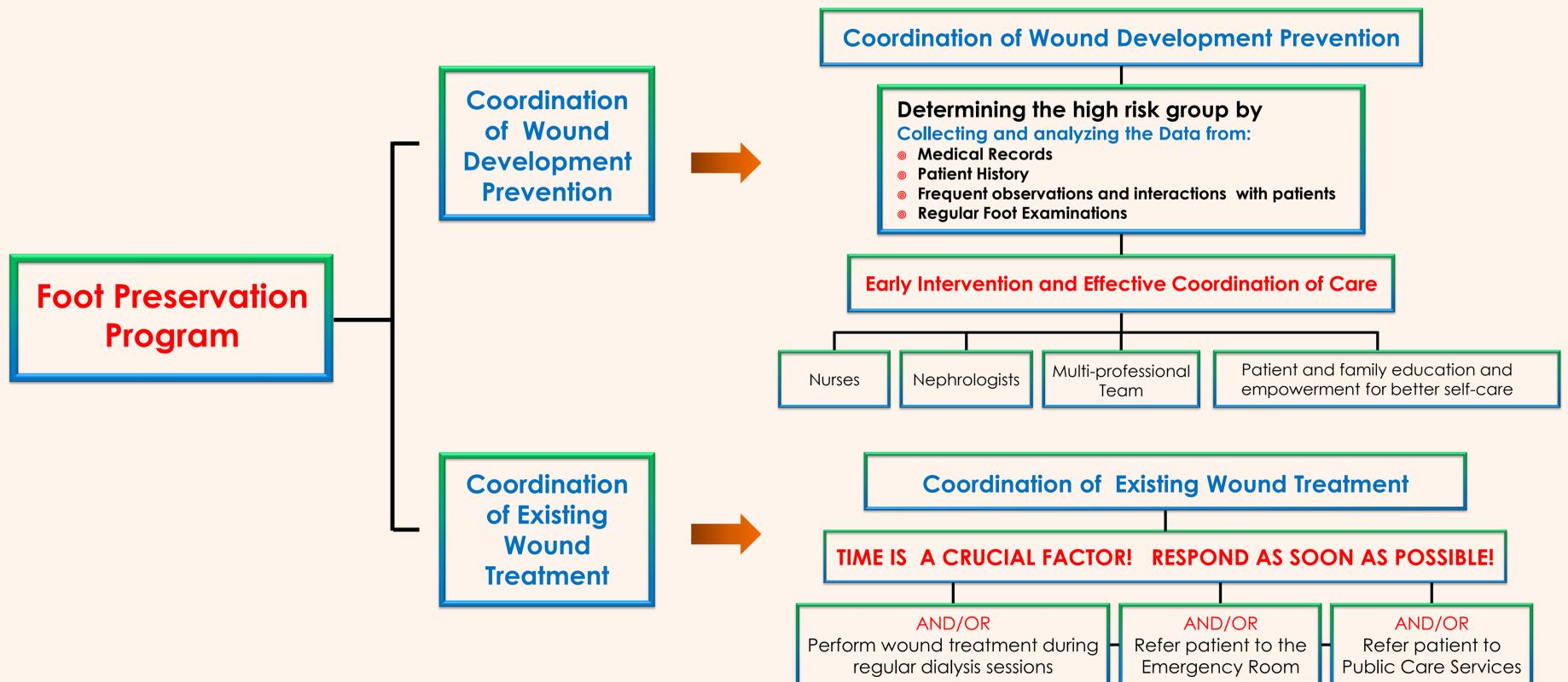
There is a strong association between End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) and Lower Extremity Amputations (LEA) incidence resulting from poorly healing wounds development.

Lower Extremity Amputations are the leading cause of :

- ⊙ Patients' continuous suffering and dramatic decrease in quality of life
- ⊙ High mortality and morbidity rates among dialysis patients
- ⊙ High costs of additional medical services

DESCRIPTION OF WOUND CARE COORDINATING NURSE POSITION

The main goal of the Wound Care Coordinating Nurse (WCCN) is to lower the risk of developing poorly healing wounds and subsequent amputations. This position is well integrated into the Foot Preservation Program within our Dialysis Unit.



CASE REPORT

- ⊙ Mr. Y. is a 75 year old white male patient who has been receiving hemodialysis treatment on a regular basis since June 2016. In January 2017, a wound spontaneously appeared on the anterior aspect of his right tibia. Mr. Y. is known for his poor self care habits and his neglectful behavior. He refused a referral to the Emergency Room or to Public Health Care services. Upon consultation with the unit's nephrologist, the nursing staff and the patient, it was decided to perform wound management during regular dialysis sessions.
- ⊙ Appropriate treatment was selected with the cooperation of the unit nephrologist, the unit WCCN and the Hospital Wound Care Coordinator. The continuous treatment and follow-up were carried out by the unit nurses during dialysis sessions. Wound management was communicated and documented via confidential texts and photos. **AS A RESULT, THE WOUND WAS COMPLETELY HEALED WITHIN A PERIOD OF 6 WEEKS**



CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- ⊙ Regular contact with patients in the dialysis unit presents a window of opportunity for continuous monitoring, treatment and patient education.
- ⊙ There is a clear benefit of the Foot Preservation Program within any Dialysis Unit.
- ⊙ The integration of the WCCN in the Foot Preservation Program has the potential to improve the outcome of wound management and to reduce the number of lower extremity amputations.
- ⊙ Efficient communication methods contribute to effective teamwork coordination.
- ⊙ We believe that the WCCN is an essential position within any dialysis unit.