

Educating Peers—and Oneself— Through *Wound Care Canada*



Sue Rosenthal

If asked, the average wound-care clinician on the street could easily identify two of the benefits they receive from *Wound Care Canada*. Most would confirm that reading the articles provides information in an easy-to-understand format that can help them improve their knowledge and develop their skills as a clinician. Some would acknowledge that the information has led to changes in their practice. But few would identify a third way they can benefit from *Wound Care Canada*: by submitting an article.

Wound Care Canada articles are intended to educate clinicians and provide practical information that can be implemented into day-to-day practice. They are also meant to stimulate discussion and inspire further exploration. And while they are based on sound wound-care principles and undergo several review stages, they are not subjected to the rigours necessary for scholarly papers. We try to make the process friendly and supportive for authors.

Admittedly, the process of writing an article can be challenging and time-consuming, but the rewards can be significant. By submitting an article, you can

1. add to the existing body of wound-care knowledge
2. become known to peers outside your immediate milieu, which is an excellent way to network
3. gain additional insights into your topic as you prepare your materials for publication
4. develop your skills as a writer
5. inspire other clinicians to implement your ideas or to further investigate them
6. improve patient outcomes on a national scale

This issue's article by Dr. Shane Inlow is a case in point (see page 10). It is short, focused and very readable. Without doubt, many physicians will implement the 60-second Foot Exam with their patients with diabetes because of having read the article. Limbs, and perhaps even lives, will be saved as a result.

Do you have a story to tell? Yes, you do. You all do. There is not a wound-care clinician working in the country today who does not have information to share that would be valuable to colleagues across the country.

Call to Action

Articles submitted by authors with various backgrounds, specialties and from a range of geographical locations and clinical settings can only help to add to the quality and breadth of information for all our readers. As individuals within the caring community of wound-care professionals, we have an opportunity, and perhaps even an obligation, to share what we know. The ongoing professional development of everyone involved in wound care depends on all of us.

The approach we encourage our authors to take for articles in *Wound Care Canada* is to find ways to make sure the information is more easily implemented than that in academic papers. Therefore, articles should

1. be short; most articles are less than 3,000 words in length
2. provide case studies to illustrate applied principles
3. highlight learning points to simplify understanding
4. offer insight into challenges faced by clinicians—with or without solutions
5. share the experiences of those who are solving commonly experienced problems
6. be tailored for a Canadian audience

I strongly encourage you to consider contributing an idea or article to *Wound Care Canada*.

You don't have to do it on your own. Many of the articles in the magazine are written by two, three, or more authors. If you've never written a published article before, working with your colleagues is an especially good way to get your foot in the door, with support and encouragement.

To find out how to submit an article, visit the *Wound Care Canada* section of the CAWC Web site. ☺

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