

ESTIM Collaboration Project

BULLETIN FOR PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

March 2017

This knowledge to action research project is tackling an important health challenge – pressure ulcers/injuries. A national survey estimated that 25% of people receiving health care, had an open wound. The total cost of open wounds to the Canadian Health Care system is approximately \$3.9 million/year or 3% of total health care expenditures. Funded by the Rick Hansen Foundation, this implementation project studies how to best provide better pressure ulcer care for people with mobility limitations who live in community settings. We are mobilizing pressure ulcer best practices, with a specific focus is on electrical stimulation (E-Stim), a proven therapy for healing wounds and pressure ulcers.

New Developments

We wanted to share with you two significant developments that reinforce the critical importance of the E-Stim Collaboration's work both today and setting the stage for future expansion.

1) Best Practice Guidelines from the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) recommend E-Stim for the treatment of pressure ulcers/injuries

The recently updated RNAO best practice guidelines (3rd edition, 2016) strongly recommend E-Stim above other adjunctive therapies to stimulate healing of stalled pressure ulcers/injuries.

2) The use of E-Stim to speed healing of pressure ulcers – is currently under review by Health Quality Ontario (HQO) and the Ontario Technology Assessment Centre (OnTAC).

HQO is a provincial agency dedicated to ensuring our health care system delivers a better experience of care and better outcomes for Ontarians at better value for money. Wounds, including pressure ulcers, were identified as one of the most common disorders in Ontario affecting thousands of patients each year. E-Stim was the only adjunctive therapy selected for a formal review by OnTAC. It was selected because of the substantial clinical research evidence and a strong recommendation for its use by the RNAO.

The recent focus by Ontario Ministry of Health & LTC on pressure ulcers and E-Stim treatment makes our work with partners in Ontario and across Canada more important than ever.

Project Update

Together with collaborators from the SW CCAC, community care agencies and the Parkwood Institute we have implemented and evaluated three implementation cycles. We have trained over 30 health care providers in this region on how to use E-Stim on and have developed an active Community of Practice involving clinicians using E-Stim in several sites across Canada. We are currently recruiting community-dwelling participants who have a pressure ulcer. People with spinal cord injury and other health challenges that limit their mobility may be eligible. We would like to talk to you about ways for your organizations patients/clients to benefit from this best practice treatment. Unlike other projects, there are resources and support available to make it easier for your wound care teams to take part.

Contact Information

Please get in touch if you'd like to discuss how to bring E-Stim to your organization or you'd like to provide feedback about the project.

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