

Patient-centred Care

Dear readers

In this issue, we understand 'patient-centred care' to be healthcare that is provided consistent with the values, desires, needs and perspectives of patients. It respects patients' preferences and values, involves their social networks (family and friends), reinforces shared decision making and goal setting and supports the exchange of information (Mead & Bower, 2000). According to the alliance of international patient organisations, patient-centred healthcare must be based on the following five principles (IAPO, 2006):

1. **Respect:** Patients and carers have the right for their needs, preferences and values, as well as their autonomy and independence, to be respected.
2. **Choice and empowerment:** Patients have the right to be treated and to act as responsible partners in making healthcare decisions.
3. **Patient involvement in health policy:** Patients and patients' organisations deserve to share the responsibility of healthcare policy-making through meaningful and supported engagement, in all levels and at all points of decision-making, to ensure that they are designed with the patient at the centre.
4. **Access and support:** Patients must have access to safe, quality and appropriate services, treatments, preventive care and health-promotion activities.
5. **Information:** To enable patients and clinicians to make informed decisions about healthcare treatment, accurate, relevant and comprehensive information is essential. Further information can be found at www.patientsorganizations.org.

Literature focussed on 'patient-centred care' is increasing, including in the field of wound care. These studies' outcomes show how patients are encouraged to take an active role in collaboration and to engage in shared

decision-making with their clinicians to design and manage a customised and comprehensive care plan. Fearn and colleagues (2017) demonstrate in their qualitative synthesis that the persistence, recurrence and symptoms of chronic wounds have severe physical, psychological and social consequences for patients and their families. In a patient-centred approach, the treatment should be focused on symptom management, including facilitating shared decision-making and self-management, as well as wound healing, (Fearnset et. al., 2017).

To support patients and clinicians in the process of shared decision-making, the European Wound Management Association (EWMA), along with its cooperative and international partner organisations, carries out different activities. These activities include providing educational resources, hosting scientific conferences, contributing to international projects related to wound management, actively supporting the implementation of existing knowledge and providing information on all aspects of wound management. Recently, EWMA commenced a project group to develop a document focused on patient-centred care aiming to develop materials that may help wound management practitioners to improve their communication with patients and to identify the most effective strategies for involving patients in the wound management processes. This document will be published in 2020.

In this issue, we provide our readers with scientific and professional articles on how patients are involved in wound care in different European countries.

I hope you all enjoy this issue,

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