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The benefits of compression therapy when treating chronic venous insufficiency and leg ulcers is well documented and widely accepted as 'the gold standard'. Incorporating the three Stemmer signs into the Leg Club initial assessment documentation as a diagnostic tool has enabled clinicians to ensure appropriate management for Leg Club members. However, it has also identified a need for further education in this specialised area. Until recently, limited guidance has been available for professionals treating patients with varying degrees of chronic oedema. Leg Club may be the first point of contact for many patients and thus plays a pivotal role in enhancing opportunities for early treatment and specialist referral. The Foundation and community nursing teams are addressing the need to embrace this complex challenge through education and building relationships with lymphoedema nurse specialists and other professionals. Both toe bandaging and the management of chronic oedema are being addressed in workshops held on the first day of our Leg Club conference, 'Wound Care: Issues of Everyday Practice' at Worcester Rugby Club on 28–29th September, 2011. Since our last update, the Foundation is pleased to announce that it has entered into a partnership with RAFT–The Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust, an excellent example of two organisations working together at grassroots level to improve outcomes for patients. RAFT is an independent charity carrying out pioneering research into practical and affordable ways to save and repair skin. The partnership will see the two charities combine their strengths, with the ultimate aim of providing a better quality of life for patients with leg ulcers.

For information about the Leg Club conference contact Lynn Bullock at: lynn@legclubfoundation.com; telephone 01728 862093, 07771 962021, or visit the website: www.legclub.org.