25th March 2014

NICE guidance supports the use of Debrisoft

NICE (The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) has recommended the use of Activa Healthcare's Debrisoft monofilament debridement pad in the management of acute and chronic wounds. The NICE guidance supports the case that Debrisoft provides both patient benefits and cost savings to the NHS.

NICE has concluded that Debrisoft can improve the treatment of acute and chronic wounds. Debrisoft is a debridement pad which facilitates rapid debridement and wound assessment.

The NICE committee concluded that Debrisoft:

- ✓ is more effective at debridement than the current practice of using hydrogel or other autolytic dressings and irrigating wounds with saline or gentle cleansing with gauze.
- ✓ gives quicker debridement, allowing earlier visibility of the wound bed and therefore better management of the wound
- ✓ may reduce pain associated with debridement
- ✓ enables faster treatment
- ✓ results in less frequent and fewer overall care visits
- ✓ reduces risk of trauma to healthy tissue and reduces bleeding
- ✓ reduces overall number of wound dressings used
- ✓ contributes to overall cost savings compared with current practices

Cost savings to the NHS

The NICE guidance cost calculator estimates that using Debrisoft within the community can save the NHS up to £484 per patient for complete debridement of a wound, compared to current standard management.

Activa Healthcare comments

Alex Browning, Senior Product Manager at Activa Healthcare comments, "NICE is the independent body responsible for driving improvement and excellence in the health and social care system. So we're thrilled that Debrisoft has received such a positive acknowledgment from NICE. Debrisoft is already being used extensively across the UK by TVN's, district nurses and practice nurses. We hope that this guidance will encourage more nurses to try Debrisoft in their everyday woundcare practice and experience first hand just how easy and effective Debrisoft is."

Simon Barrett, Tissue Viability Specialist comments, "Over time dressings evolve and improve on existing technology. It's not often that something comes along which revolutionises practice like Debrisoft. Debrisoft gives the practitioner the opportunity to provide optimum care by improving how we treat the wound bed and care for skin".

An excerpt from one study in the NICE Report states:

"Debridement (by Debrisoft) was effective in 93.4% (142/152) of the sessions. During the debridement procedure 45% of patients reported that they experienced no pain, 50.4% reported slight discomfort of short duration (mean 2 minutes) and 4.6% reported moderate pain of short duration (mean 2.4 minutes). No side effects after the procedure were reported by 56 out of 57 patients. No serious adverse events or adverse events were reported. Clinicians reported that the Debrisoft pad removed debris, slough, dried exudate and crusts efficiently, without damaging the fragile skin surrounding the wound. Photographic analysis confirmed this." Bahr et al. (2011) and Mustafi et al. (2011)

Debrisoft is a single-use, soft, polyester fibre pad. To use, it is gently wiped across the wound and the exudate, dead cells and wound debris are removed and retained in the monofilament fibres. Using this device, debridement takes on average two to four minutes per wound and is done without the need for analgesia.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

For more information on Activa Healthcare's Debrisoft please contact Rachel Husband or Justin Clark at CCD Public Relations on 020 7434 4100 or email rachel@ccdpr.com / justin@ccdpr.com

The Debrisoft monofilament debridement pad for use in acute or chronic wounds guidance can be viewed in full at http://guidance.nice.org.uk/MT/192

About Activa Healthcare

Activa Healthcare is the market leader in compression hosiery and the fastest growing woundcare company in the UK.

Activa Healthcare continues to pioneer innovative product developments and strives to educate healthcare professionals about best practice with its dedicated training and study day programmes.

http://www.activahealthcare.co.uk

About NICE

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is the independent body responsible for driving improvement and excellence in the health and social care system. It develops guidance, standards and information on high-quality health and social care. It also advises on ways to promote healthy living and prevent ill health.

To find out more about what NICE does, visit the website: www.nice.org.uk or follow Twitter: @NICEComms