



Press Release

For immediate release

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NICE recommends Leg Club Industry Partner Urgo Medical's interactive wound dressing for ulcer treatment.

Leg Club Industry Partner Urgo Medical has created a unique wound dressing for venous leg ulcers and diabetic foot ulcers. It is thought that UrgoStart could prevent more than 3,000 diabetes-related amputations each year and because of this has been recommended by NICE (The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence).

At any one time 115,000 people in the UK develop a diabetic foot ulcer and 278,000 people are treated for venous leg ulcers every year. Leg ulcers and diabetic foot ulcers take an average of 200 days to heal.

Most leg ulcers are venous and traditionally treatment has been based on compression. UrgoStart is recommended for use as part of this standard of care, in conjunction with compression therapy for leg ulcers, or alongside offloading for diabetic foot ulcers. UrgoStart is composed of a unique TLC-NOSF Healing Matrix which has been found to reduce healing time and save costs.

Following a comprehensive review of ground-breaking clinical studies, in addition to expert opinion and advice, the NICE medical technology committee issued guidance concluding that UrgoStart is associated with increased wound healing when compared with non-interactive dressings and could result in fewer ulcer-

related amputations. The committee also recognised that the treatment is correspondingly associated with significant cost savings for the NHS and improved quality of life for patients.

Graham Bowen, Clinical Lead for Podiatry, Solent NHS Trust, and Chair of Foot in Diabetes UK said: “UrgoStart can significantly reduce the healing time of foot ulcers and will have a significant impact on thousands of patients living with this condition. Over 90 per cent of all diabetes-related amputations are preceded by a single foot ulcer so speeding up the healing process could help prevent many unnecessary amputations.”

Lorraine Grothier, Urgo Medical UK Head of Clinical Services, said: “We're absolutely delighted by this recommendation. It is a breakthrough for both clinicians and patients, giving access to an effective wound treatment that reduces healing time. Timely evidence-based treatment of lower limb ulcers is essential, decreasing the demand on limited healthcare resources and enhancing patients' quality of life.

Ellie Lindsay OBE, Lifetime president, The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation, said: “We are delighted to have Urgo Medical as one of our Leg Club Industry Partners (LCIP) and hope to help more people living with venous leg ulcers and diabetic foot ulcers get access to this new technology. This breakthrough treatment in lower limb care could help change the lives of many of our Leg Club members, improving their healing outcomes at the same time as reducing costs.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- 1) Problems of the lower limb, leg ulcers (and other chronic leg problems like lymphoedema) can affect people at any age but are particularly common in people over 60. At present, over 80 per cent of all leg ulcers are treated in patients' own homes by district nurses or by practice nurses in GP surgeries. However, individuals often find it difficult to adhere to treatment plans, or to maintain the preventive measures needed to avert recurrence of lower limb problems or their leg ulcer. Many leg ulcers consequently reoccur or remain unhealed for many months or even years.

- 2) The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation exists to promote the national development of Leg Clubs. The Foundation also provides the necessary support and training for nurses to establish Leg Clubs and follow the Foundation's guidelines, as well as ongoing training in new developments in leg care.
- 3) The psychosocial Leg Club model for lower limb care is an innovative model that has been shown to improve the health and wellbeing of people with chronic lower limb conditions. By healing chronic leg wounds and keeping them healed, Leg Clubs also have the potential to save commissioners up to 80 per cent of their wound care budget in comparison with conventional lower limb treatment. A Leg Club is a local partnership between practice and community nurses, patients and members of the community. Run by a committee of volunteers, each Leg Club operates according to strict guidelines of care, monitored by the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation. The Leg Club title, the wording and logo are protected by Registered Trade Mark in the UK.

For further information about the Leg Club Foundation and Leg Clubs visit:

www.legclub.org

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