

Switching to ALLEVYN[®] LIFE Foam Dressing from previous wound care dressings increased wear time, was highly rated by nurses and substantially reduced nurse visits in a clinical performance appraisal

+ Plus points

↓ 36.3%

relative reduction in mean dressing change frequency per week with ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing versus previous dressings (28 patients)

397 hours

released per week with ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing (estimated for 469 patients requiring ≥3 visits per week)



>90%

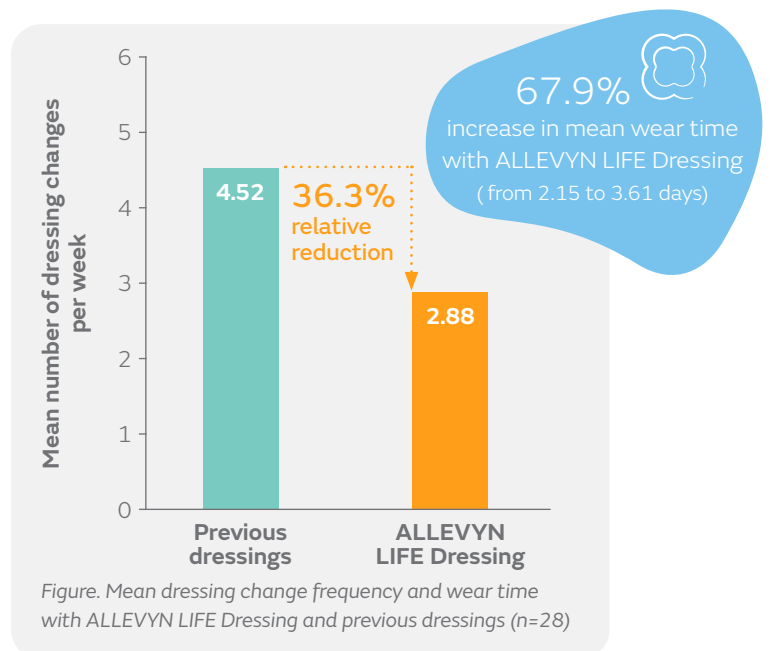
of nurses rated ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing as 'good' to 'excellent' (13 performance parameters)

Overview

- An in-practice clinical performance appraisal of switching to ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing from previous dressings at one NHS trust in the UK
- Tissue viability and county nurses (n=38) were trained on dressing application, indications and contraindications
- Wound type, duration and characteristics, dressing wear time and assessment of dressing performance were evaluated
- A total of 40 cases were completed; 28 cases had data for ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing and the previous dressing
 - The majority were from primary care (79.5%); the most common wounds were pressure ulcers (40.0%) and trauma wounds (24.3%)

Results

- Switching to ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing from previous dressings resulted in (Figure):
 - An increase in mean wear time of 67.9% (from 2.15 to 3.61 days)
 - A relative reduction in mean weekly dressing change frequency of 36.3% (1.64 fewer changes)
- An estimated release of 769 district nursing visits per week (397 hours) in a local healthcare practice of 469 patients requiring ≥3 visits per week
- Most nurses (>90%) rated ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing as 'good' to 'excellent' across all 13 evaluated performance parameters
- Overall, 94.0% of nurses responded that they would recommend inclusion of ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing on the wound care formulary



Conclusions

Switching to ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing reduced dressing change frequency, increased mean wear time and was rated highly by nurses compared with previous dressings; it may also enhance efficiency by releasing nursing visits.

Citation

*Stephen-Haynes J, Bielby A, Searle R. The clinical performance of a silicone foam in an NHS community trust. JCN. 2013;27(5):50–59. Available at: [Journal of Community Nursing](#)

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