

+ Evidence in focus

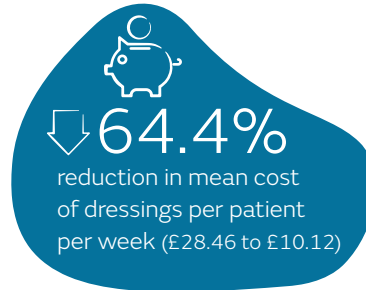
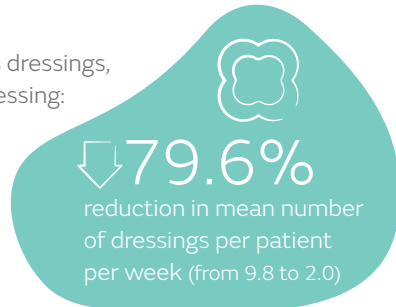
Publication summary: Joy H, et al. *J Wound Care* (2015)*

Smith+Nephew

Use of ALLEVYN[◇] LIFE Foam Dressing with a programme of wound care training and education helped to reduce dressing changes and dressing costs, as well as release nurse visits compared with prior practice

+ Plus points

Compared with previous dressings, use of ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing:

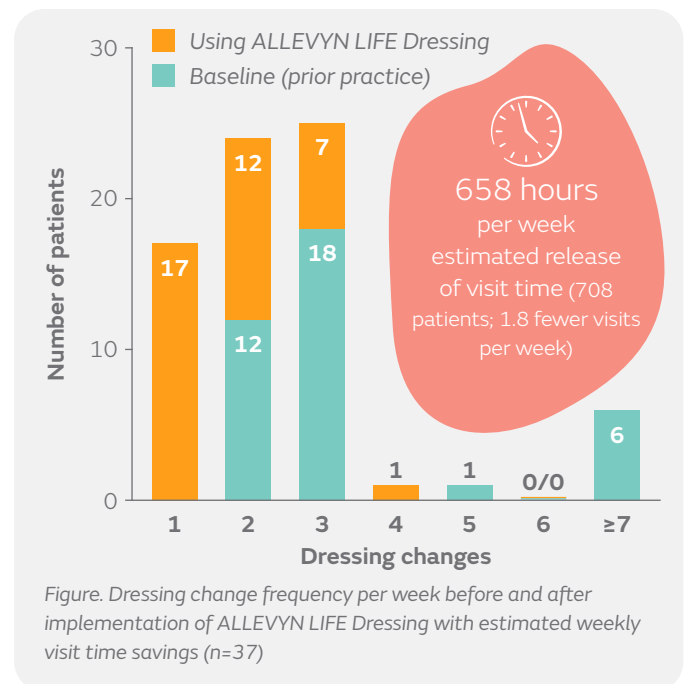


Overview

- A targeted programme on wound care practice including use of ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing at one healthcare partnership in the UK
- Community nurses received training and education, including dressing selection and change frequency, over two weeks, followed by a one-week implementation phase
- A total of 37 patients were treated mostly within residential care (40.5%) or at home (43.2%)
- Most patients had chronic wounds of more than six weeks in duration (73.0%) and three (8.1%) had infected wounds

Results

- Overall, 97.3% of patients had a reduction from baseline (prior practice) in dressing change visits after implementation of ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing
- Implementation of ALLEVYN LIFE Dressings reduced:
 - Mean frequency of dressing change visits per week by 50% (from 3.6 to 1.8)
 - Mean number of dressings per patient per dressing change by 47.6% (from 2.1 to 1.1)
 - Mean number of dressings per patient per week by 79.6% (from 9.8 to 2.0)
 - Patients requiring dressing changes ≥ 3 times per week (Figure)
- Mean dressing wear time increased by 2.3 days with ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing (from 2.5 days at baseline to 4.8 days post implementation)
- Use of ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing reduced dressing cost per patient per week by 64.4% (£18.34) and was estimated to release 1,274 visits (658 hours) per week in a local healthcare practice of 708 patients (Figure)
 - 66,269 visits (34,239 hours) per year



Conclusions

Use of ALLEVYN LIFE Dressing with a training and education programme, helped to reduce dressing change frequency, weekly dressing costs per patient and nurse visits compared with prior practice, resulting in a substantial release of valuable nurse time.

Citation

*Joy H, Bielby A, Searle R. A collaborative project to enhance efficiency through dressing change practice. *J Wound Care*. 2015;24(7):314-317. Available at: [Journal of Wound Care](#)

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