

Publication summary: Carmichael K, Hughes J & Styche T. *British Journal of Community Nursing* (2021)

Impact of a wound management system on budget optimisation, formulary compliance and variations in care

+ Plus points

27% reduction (p=0.08) in nursing hours per week when processing orders



Number of patient visits released = 26,809 hours



Overall spend reduction of £64,254



Overview

- This article examines how implementing the Formeo wound management system in City Health Care Partnership (CHCP) Hull in collaboration with an industry partner (Smith+Nephew) has the potential to benefit the local health economy, district nurse workload and patient experience
- The ability to access and control wound management products via an online system has the potential to impact on clinical outcomes, as well as safeguarding formulary compliance
- Formeo as part of Wound Compass<sup>o</sup> was launched in CHCP in July 2019
- A comprehensive training plan was rolled out across Hull and East Riding, United Kingdom to ensure seamless integration in daily practice. A full stock-take on shelves was completed in July 2019, and support was provided via boot boxes in August 2019
- Supporting clinical survey - 32 clinicians using the Formeo system were subject to a separate survey around the impact of the system in September 2020

Results

- Reduction in the number of dressings used before and after system implementation, reducing from 31 to 19 dressing variants
- Overall spend reduction of £64,254
- Average monthly spend decreased from £45,121 to £39,767 representing an 11.9% reduction (p<0.01)
- When applying simple estimates around the number of wounds per patient (1.3) and 31 minutes per patient visit, it was estimated that the efficiencies gained through Formeo released up to 27,000 patient visits; the equivalent of 7 full-time equivalent (FTE) nursing heads (Table 1)
- 27% reduction in hours per week when processing orders (p=0.08)
- Reduction in time taken (days) to receive dressings – 5 days reduced to 2.8 days (p=0.03)
- Reduction in time patients waited to have skin tear dressed – 9.21 hours reduced to 24 minutes

Table 1. Approximate number of nursing hours over a 12-month period of Formeo implementation (assuming) FTE as 52 weeks at 38 hours per week<sup>1</sup>

Foam dressings released	34,852
Estimated wounds per patient	1.3
Patient visits released	26,809
Minutes per patient visit	31
Nursing hours released	13,851
Full time equivalent released	7.0

Online wound management systems have the potential to affect budgets, nurse workload and patient experience

Citation

1. Carmichael K, Hughes J, Styche T. Impact of a wound management system on budget optimisation, formulary compliance and variations in care. *Br J Community Nurs.* 2021 May 2;26(5):246-250