

## Addressing uncertainty in wound management using a modified Delphi methodology

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**objectives:** The increasing prevalence and rising costs of Venous Leg Ulcers (VLU), Diabetic Foot Ulcers (DFU) and Pressure Ulcers (PU), means that a consistent level of care and understanding of best practice is needed to improve patient outcomes and maximise value for money. This study aimed to achieve consensus on a set of evidence-based statements on these issues from a range of clinical experts. **Methods:** A literature search identified 827 articles. Inclusion/exclusion criteria were applied resulting in 145 articles providing 308 quotations in 4 categories: epidemiology, clinical effectiveness, quality of life, and economics. From this, 47 statements were developed. A modified Delphi methodology was used and a consensus threshold of 80% was set. Round I and II: Participants examined and voted yes/no for each statement. If the threshold was not met, comments informed changes. Round III: A meeting to discuss all statements. **Results:** Round I: 38/47 statements confirmed, none rejected. 9 statements modified using comments and resubmitted. Round II: 5/9 remaining statements confirmed, none rejected, leaving 4. At the meeting, all 47 were confirmed. During examination of confirmed statements, some modifications were made; agreed by all members of the panel. A consensus document is being developed using the statements. **Conclusions:** The consensus document developed from this approach can help to address areas of uncertainty in the management of chronic wounds by Healthcare Professionals across a range of disciplines resulting in benefits both for patients and the healthcare system. The panel enjoyed the Delphi methodology, which was an efficient way of arriving at consensus for a large and varied group. Using a Delphi methodology to achieve a consensus on evidence-based statements generated from a literature review is an efficient and robust methodology for resolving uncertainty regarding the management of clinical conditions.