



SERENAGROUP NEWSLETTER

BUILDING THE NATION'S LEADING WOUND CARE TEAM

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WOUND HEALING AWARENESS: EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

Every year, the month of June is dedicated to raising awareness about wound healing, emphasizing the importance of timely intervention, proper wound care, and access to advanced treatments. Wound Healing Awareness Month serves as a platform to educate and empower individuals, healthcare professionals, and communities, inspiring action and fostering positive change.

Individuals with non-healing wounds face numerous challenges that can significantly impact their quality of life and overall well-being. Increasing awareness of these challenges and highlighting the importance of specialized wound care can help save limbs and lives. Here are some key challenges faced by individuals with non-healing wounds:

Delayed Healing: Non-healing wounds can take a prolonged amount of time to heal, leading to physical discomfort, reduced mobility, and increased risk of infection. This can result in a significant impact on daily activities, work productivity, and overall independence.

Risk of Infection: Open wounds are susceptible to infection, which can further impede the healing process. Infections can lead to systemic complications, sepsis, and even limb-threatening conditions. Specialized wound care focuses on preventing and treating infections to minimize these risks.

Chronic Pain: Non-healing wounds often cause persistent pain, which can be both physically and emotionally distressing. Managing wound-related pain requires a comprehensive approach, including appropriate pain medications, wound dressings, and adjunctive therapies tailored to individual needs.

Reduced Quality of Life: Chronic wounds can significantly impact an individual's quality of life, affecting their emotional well-being, social interactions, and overall mental health. The physical limitations and lifestyle adjustments required to manage non-healing wounds can lead to feelings of isolation, frustration, and depression.

Functional Impairments: Non-healing wounds, particularly those affecting the lower extremities, can impair mobility and limit the ability to perform daily activities. This can result in a loss of independence, decreased participation in social and recreational activities, and a decline in overall physical fitness.

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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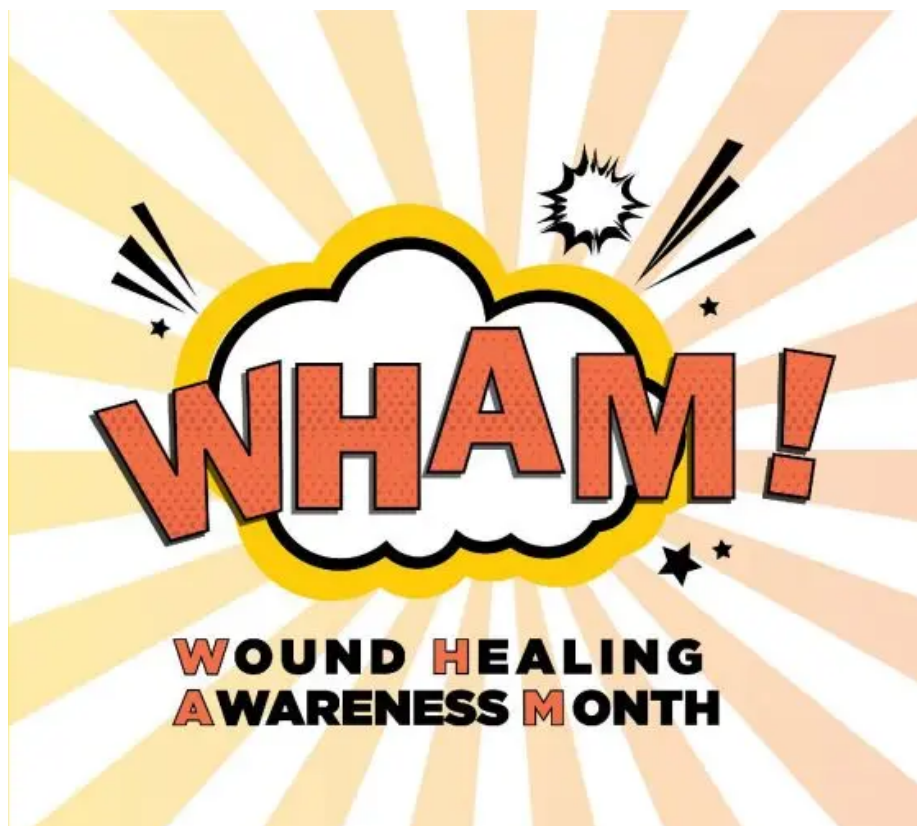
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Financial Burden: The cost of managing non-healing wounds can be substantial, including medical treatments, specialized wound care products, hospital visits, and potential surgical interventions. The financial burden can be overwhelming for individuals, especially if they lack adequate insurance coverage or access to affordable wound care services.

Specialized wound care can play a critical role in addressing these challenges and improving outcomes for individuals with non-healing wounds. It involves a multidisciplinary approach, with healthcare professionals specialized in wound management collaborating to develop personalized treatment plans. Specialized wound care focuses on advanced wound dressings, infection control strategies, offloading techniques, and other interventions tailored to individual needs.

Increasing awareness about specialized wound care can help individuals and healthcare providers recognize the importance of early intervention and timely referral to wound care specialists. It emphasizes the need for access to specialized wound clinics, advanced wound care products, and evidence-based treatments to prevent complications, promote healing, and save limbs and lives.

Through education, community outreach, and advocacy efforts, it is possible to raise awareness about the challenges faced by individuals with non-healing wounds and the transformative impact that specialized wound care can have on their lives. By promoting early intervention, collaboration among healthcare professionals, and access to specialized wound care services, we can enhance outcomes, improve quality of life, and ultimately save limbs and lives.



MEANINGFUL CONTACT FOR NON-PROVIDERS OF HYPERBARIC OXYGEN

MATT SCHWEYER,
Chief Compliance Officer



I am often questioned on this topic in many different ways. For example, recently on a chart review, we noticed that post-procedure vital signs were not documented on a patient. My question to you: "Is this acceptable?" My answer from both a patient safety and compliance perspective is No! My analogy, you would not back your vehicle out of a parking spot or change lanes without checking behind you via your camera or rearview mirror and/or your blind spots before making the decision. If you did, and had an accident, most likely you would be found culpable.

Clinically speaking, that example resonates with me from a patient-safety perspective. Patient X comes in for treatment, has a full pre-assessment, and finishes an uneventful treatment. Upon exiting the chamber, the HBO Tech or Nurse asked the patient, "How do you feel", "How was your treatment" "Do you have any issues?" After the patient's response, you discharge the patient home. My question: was anything forgotten? Yes: no, post treatment vital signs, including a blood glucose level, if indicated, were performed.

Patient X leaves the center, heading for home. On the way he/she has an accident. Upon examination, by EMS the patient is found to have a severe headache, high blood pressure, and an elevated pulse rate. Patient is sent to the Emergency Room, where patient mentions that he/she was going home after HBO treatment at this hospital. The Emergency Room provider does two things: orders a CT scan to rule out head trauma and or other issues and reviews the patient's HBO record for unusual circumstances or events. And, what does he find?

No Post treatment vital signs, Uh-Oh, No! The process contradicts what the Hospital Policy states, what is included in the discharge process and the obvious is missing. So, who is responsible for the oversight of the treatment? Obviously, the provider is overseeing from a Medical Supervision perspective, and trusts that we have performed our functions as dictated by policy. However, the person operating the chamber is responsible for all of the non-provider components.

The good news: this scenario only ended up with a GAP Analysis with the hospital Risk Management and Patient Safety Officer. A lot of finger pointing was attempted; however, the end result was Hospital Policy was not followed. The bad news is the Wound Center has escalated itself upward on the oversight list for Risk Mitigation at the hospital. My final thought: "This was Preventable and Predictable!"

My responsibility as National Safety Director involves patient safety. Everyone has heard my phrase, "Sixty Seconds of Safety"! Therefore, I leave you with the perils of patient safety: taking a moment to follow policy and perform a good post treatment assessment is not only good practice, but is also Best Practice. And, that policy, will soon be updated in the SerenaGroup Policy and Procedure manual

THIS MONTHS EDUCATION TOPICS & IMPORTANT DATES



June Dates to Remember

Wound Healing Awareness Month

National Blood Donor Day
June 14

National Hydration Day
June 24

Monthly Education Topic:
TPE: Targeted Probe and Educate

HBO Safety Topic:
*Diabetes Management for
the Hyperbaric Patient*

Community Education Area of Focus:
Plastic Surgery

BELOVED RECEPTIONIST, LOUANN HICKS, PASSED AWAY

Louann had been a part of our CHI Serena Group Team since May of 2017. She had a very generous heart and a fun loving personality. She would bring in the best homemade baked goods and treats around the holidays. She had an infectious laugh and the sweetest smile. Passing away on Mother's day somewhat fits as she loved being a mother and would often talk about her children and her husband. She was a good friend to many of our team and her spirit as a mother was present in her interactions with her team members and our patients. The huge text chain that developed shortly after her passing with current and former team members was full of such kind words and sorrow for the loss of a wonderful person.

Rest in Peace Louann. Although she is gone way too soon, she certainly will not be forgotten.

-Your CHI Family-



SerenaGroup Blue Star Winners



Jody Hughes, RN
Jackson Hospital

Jody has been a nurse at Jackson Wound Center for over three years. She is always willing to lend a hand or take on additional responsibilities such as take the role as our safety coach or volunteer to be a super user for a new charting system.

Her patients love her and are assured they are in great hands when she takes care of them. We are lucky to have her on our team and want to recognize her efforts with a blue star.



UPCOMING 40hr Intro to HBO Courses

Nov 9-12, 2023 | West Palm Beach FL

To register for an upcoming course please go to serenagroupinc.com and click on courses.

SerenaGroup
Building the Nation's Leading Wound Care Team

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