



# SERENAGROUP NEWSLETTER

BUILDING THE NATION'S LEADING WOUND CARE TEAM

ISSUE 66 • AUGUST 2023

## VERIFYING THE DIAGNOSIS

ALLY GEORGE, DIRECTOR



Why do hyperbaric technicians check every new patient chart when there are EMR reports that pull hyperbaric candidates? This is an easy question to answer. The reason is because we're a team! Yes, the EMR plays its role, but we have more training than technology. We know that just because a patient does not have a qualifying diabetic foot ulcer does not mean they may not have another indication for hyperbaric oxygen therapy. Things the EMR might not catch but your hyperbaric tech will catch.

- Radiation wounds
- Chronic refractory osteomyelitis diagnosis in any a sacral pressure ulcer
- Failed flap labeled as a surgical wound
- Surgical wound or pressure ulcers that are on diabetic feet
- Wagner grade 3 or higher ulcers that have been receiving standard of care outside of our clinic, making them eligible for HBOT immediately and not waiting an additional 30 days
- Gangrene as a potential Wagner grade 4
- Wagner 2 that has never closed and has been present for many years and does have a history of osteomyelitis
- New surgical wound that is the result of an amputated Wagner 3 that tests positive for osteomyelitis
- "Acute osteomyelitis" that has been recurring in the same bone despite conservative treatment for many years

The hyperbaric techs are trained to scan these charts with eagle eyes and comprehension. They will ask the questions. Encourage the relationship between hyperbaric techs and wound care physicians and nursing. Pick one another's brain, learn from each other. We're all part of the wound healing team!

SERENA GROUP  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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# NATIONAL "I LOVE MY FEET DAY"

## A GOOD REMINDER FOR DIABETICS

BY KIM SKERL, PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Proper foot care is of utmost importance for diabetics due to their increased risk of developing foot complications. Diabetes can lead to nerve damage (neuropathy) and reduced blood flow to the feet (peripheral arterial disease), which can make the feet vulnerable to various issues. Here are the key reasons why proper foot care is crucial for diabetics:

- 1. Prevention of Diabetic Foot Ulcers:** Nerve damage from diabetes can lead to reduced sensation in the feet, making it challenging to detect injuries like blisters, cuts, or sores. Without prompt treatment, these minor issues can develop into serious foot ulcers. Proper foot care, including regular foot inspections and immediate attention to any abnormalities, can help prevent ulcers from forming or catching them at an early stage when they are more treatable.
- 2. Decreased Risk of Infections:** Diabetics are more susceptible to infections due to their compromised immune system. If foot wounds or ulcers go unnoticed or untreated, they can become infected, leading to serious health complications. Proper foot care practices, such as keeping feet clean and moisturized and promptly treating any wounds, can reduce the risk of infections.
- 3. Avoiding Amputation:** Uncontrolled diabetes combined with foot complications can sometimes lead to severe infections or non-healing ulcers. In extreme cases, these conditions may necessitate amputation of toes, feet, or even lower limbs. By practicing proper foot care and managing blood sugar levels effectively, diabetics can significantly lower the risk of amputation.
- 4. Promoting Circulation:** Diabetes can affect blood circulation, leading to poor healing of wounds. Proper foot care, including regular foot exercises and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, can help improve blood flow to the feet and enhance wound healing.
- 5. Better Quality of Life:** By maintaining proper foot care and preventing foot complications, diabetics can enjoy a better quality of life, with reduced pain, discomfort, and limitations on mobility.

Taking proper care of your feet is essential in preventing wounds and maintaining good foot health. To ensure optimal foot health, diabetics should work closely with healthcare professionals in managing their diabetes. Remember, healthy feet are the foundation of an active and fulfilling life, so make foot care a priority by "Loving Your Feet"!



## ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM AT THE 2023 SYMPOSIUM ON ADVANCED WOUND CARE

The 2023 Symposium on Advanced Wound Care, has selected SerenaGroups Antimicrobial Stewardship Program as one of their Poster Presentations for the Fall

meeting being held this November in Las Vegas, NV. Nancy Trafelet, Dean Miller and Jill Schroder make up the Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee for SerenaGroup.

The Committee, which is one of the first groups to publish a formal Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, submitted their ASP abstract that looks at the systemic and antimicrobial prescribing trends in outpatient wound care. The presentation will feature SerenaGroup Centers and Providers who participated in the 2022 data collection.

Congratulations to the Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee for this outstanding achievement.

**Monthly Education Topic:**  
*Clinical Emergencies*

**HBO Safety Topic:**  
*Know the Resources Available for You and Your Patients*

**Community Education Area of Focus:**  
*Urgent Care/Emergency Medicine*

**August Dates to Remember**  
**Summer Sun Safety Month**  
**National I Love My Feet Day**  
*August 17*

**THIS MONTHS  
EDUCATION TOPICS  
& IMPORTANT DATES**



## SerenaGroup Blue Star Winners



**Beth South**  
**Savanna Mcann**  
**Shamada Johnson**  
*CHI Health*

It is a 5 person job to cover the entire CHI metro area and 3 of them have been covering since July 10th.

Long hours (Mondays are busy and packed from all the weekend consults) and they all have had a really good attitude and great work ethic.

Thank you Beth, Savanna and Shamada!



## 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](http://serenagroupinc.com) and click on courses.

**SerenaGroup**  
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888-960-1343  
125 Cambridge Park Drive  
Suite 301  
Cambridge MA 02140

**Facebook:** SerenaGroupWC  
**Twitter:** SerenaGroup4  
**LinkedIn:** SerenaGroup Advanced  
Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine  
**Instagram:** serenagroup1