



SYMPOSIUM UPDATE

It is with pleasure that we present the proceedings from the 7th Annual Ontario Woundcare Interest Group Symposium entitled: Engage. Align. Influence: Empowering Implementation. The document may be found here on our [website](#).

This year there were over 50 delegates in attendance, including Chiropractors, Nurses, Enterostomal Therapists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists and industry partners. A special guest from the Rick Hansen Institute in British Columbia was also in attendance.

The team from Health Quality Ontario delivered an overview of the new provincial health quality standards for wound care, as well as next steps in the implementation process. We are grateful for the commitment and rigour that HGO has put into the development of these important wound care standards.

The Symposium events, as well as many behind the scenes efforts are only possible through the commitment and participation of the OntWIG executive. Each executive member has put in many hours through Executive team meetings, working group leadership and the promotion of OntWIG at various conferences and provincial committee involvement. A heartfelt THANK YOU to each of you!

Thank you to our working group members who provided time and expertise. The work of OntWIG is dependent on the network of invested inter professional colleagues. Finally thank you to all members of OntWIG who have contributed to influencing wound health policy in their own settings.

I look forward to the months ahead and the continued momentum.

Sincerely,

Valerie Winberg NP
OntWIG President





SAVE THE DATE!!!

Mark your calendars for our 10th Anniversary Symposium! The 2018, Symposium will be held April 20th at The Doctors House in Kleinburg Ontario.



HEALTH QUALITY ONTARIO WOUND CARE QUALITY STANDARDS UPDATE

A number of the OntWIG executive were involved Wound Care Quality Standards Advisory Committee and the development of HQO's new Wound QualityCare Standards. There are 3 new HQO Wound Care Standards - Diabetic Foot Ulcers, Pressure Injuries and Venous Leg Ulcers. The final wound care quality standards were recently approved by the HQO Board of Directors. They will be formally released once the recommendations for adoption have been completed.

GET INVOLVED! WE NEED YOU!

The Executive Team is constantly changing and we are looking for volunteers from all healthcare professions who are interested in driving provincial wound care policy change while working in a strong team environment to get involved. We are currently recruiting for both the executive and our working groups. Elections for executive positions will be held in the fall. Watch your inboxes and our website for more information to be updated by August 15th.

Please apply before September 15th:

- submit a letter of interest for review by the current executive team
- indicate in which area of leadership you are interested
- include your current CV/Resume



WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The policy change working group has been very busy over the past year. The goal of this group has been to collaborate with OntWIG members who have identified barriers to accessing technologies, human resources issues and services for woundcare delivery in the Province of Ontario and to take these issues to the provincial organizations best able help to break down these barriers. To date we have four projects in action with either The Ontario Health Technology Assessment Committee (OHTAC) and/or Health Quality Ontario (HQO).

The first project to be submitted by OntWIG was Total Contact for Neuropathic Foot Ulcers. This was originally submitted in the spring of 2015. An HTA review was completed in Spring 2017. The final recommendations are expected to be posted by HQO for public comments later this summer. Thank you to Ann-Marie McLaren, Ruth Thompson, Nicole McGrath and Laura Teague for providing clinical expertise to HQO throughout the review process.

The second submission by OntWIG members was made for the use of Electrical Stimulation Therapy (ESTIM) for the Treatment of Pressure Ulcers. A final report was discussed with OHTAC on May 4th, 2017. The HTA and HQO will have recommendations on the use of ESTIM for the treatment of pressure ulcers posted for public commentary later on this summer. Thank you to Lyndsay Orr, Diane Leber, Deb Mings, Dr. Pamela Houghton and Laura Teague and t for providing clinical expertise to HQO during this review process

Compression hosiery for the prevention of recurrence in persons with chronic venous insufficiency was OntWIG's third submission. A review of the literature was completed in January of 2017 and a submission has been made to HTA and HQO. Thank you to Susan Chandler, Ruth Thompson, Alexandra Crowe and Laura Teague for their work in preparing the application to OTHAC for this HTA review. Clinical experts will be thanked once the assessment is completed.

The fourth submission is for the use of Pentoxifylline for the treatment of venous insufficiency. As Pentoxifylline is a drug the submission process has been different. Process of application for drug review explored through a number of different avenues from October - December of 2016. Contact made with Drug Programs Policy and Strategy Branch, Ontario Public Drug Programs and AA Pharma (drug manufacturer) Feb-March 2017. The process for preceding has been outlined by Moe Abdallah, A/Senior Pharmacist through the Ontario Public Drugs Programs. We are currently recruiting OntWIG members for assistance with the application process. Thank you to Susan Chandler and Laura Teague for the initial work on this application process.

