

To: Primary Care Partners

From: Sue McCutcheon, Director, Regional Programs

Re: Funding for Casts to Treat Diabetic Foot Ulcers (offloading devices)

Date: January 22, 2018

In order to improve wound care for patients with diabetes, the [province is funding](#) casts to treat diabetic foot ulcers. The cost of specialized casts to provide more support for patients with diabetic foot ulcers will be covered. The province is also supporting wound care training and education for health care workers, which will include specialized skills development in diabetic foot ulcer management.

Wound care devices, which include removable (ie. walker, air casts), non-removable and total contact foot casts, can significantly improve patients' quality of life by relieving pressure around the heel, ankle and toes so the foot can properly heal. These casts will be made available free of charge at eligible locations.

To support the adoption of the [Health Quality Ontario \(HQQ\) Wound Care Quality Standards](#), the South West LHIN has received new base funding to support the provision of offloading devices for people with diabetes and foot ulcers.

In the South West LHIN, the service delivery model will follow a three-year phased approach (based on Diabetes Canada recommendations for service delivery) and include the development of a training workshop and mentoring program:

- 2017-18 Phase one: Selected publicly funded Healthcare Service Providers
- 2018-19 Phase two: South West LHIN Community Flex Clinics
- 2019-20 Phase three: Primary Care Providers

In the first phase, seven pilot locations will deliver services based on existing skills, expertise, capacity and interest to participate. These sites already serve patients in their clinics who could benefit from the provision of offloading devices. The focus on providing devices initially in these selected care settings is to allow the time to expand capacity for prescribing, fitting and monitoring within South West LHIN Community Flex Clinics in a second phase.

Pilot sites are: Chronic Wound and Skin Health Team, Parkwood Institute, Specialist Clinic; London Diabetes Foot Clinic, Specialist Clinic; St. Joseph's Health Care Primary Care Diabetes Support Program; Grey Bruce Health Services; West Elgin Community Health Centre, and two Family Health Teams (TBD).

If you have any questions about the project, please contact: Samantha Colwell-Castles
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