

Net-based guidance for improving ulcer care



Background:

The Department of Dermatology at the Northern Norway Regional Health Authority (UNN) offers Net-based guidance to health staff in the municipal health service.

Method:

The project includes 40 patients with ulcers. Those who participate, both health staff in the municipal health service and patients with ulcers, answer a questionnaire at the start and at the end of the guidance period. Some of the participants will be interviewed.

Project period:

1 Jan. 2006 - 30 Jul. 2008

Funding:

Telemedicine research programme, Northern Norway Regional Health Authority

Objective:

To investigate the effects of systematic teamwork between the Department of Dermatology and staff who provide ulcer care locally.

Project partners:

Department of Dermatology and Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine.

Project description:

Health staff in the municipal health service take photographs of ulcers using a digital camera and fill in a standardized ulcer form, which is sent to the Department of Dermatology over the Internet.

Clinical responsibility:

Nathalie Deirdre Dufour

The municipal health service needs access to the Internet and a mobile telephone. No information will be stored on the computer used for the connection. The solution is similar to logging on to an Internet Bank.

Guidance to nurses:

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The Department of Dermatology will strive to respond to inquiries on the following day, except during weekends.

Project manager:

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User experience

"... Ulcers are not a speciality for us... We have taken part in courses on ulcers, but when you are to manage the ulcer yourself it is not always easy, especially if there is pus or fibrin." (Nurse, 2005)

For enquiries about participation, please contact Ada Steen

"... It would be good to be able to send a picture and have it assessed by the Department of Dermatology. We learn from this, too." (Nurse, 2004)

"... The advantage is that you don't have to travel to the hospital." (Patient with ulcer, 2005)