



AWMA MODULE ACCREDITATION

Module Six: Management of Oncology Related and Palliative Wounds

Introduction- The Australian Wound Management Association Education & Professional Development Sub Committee-(AWMA EPDSC) has developed the minimum components that are required in a set of basic Professional Development modules for skin integrity maintenance and wound management. In addition an aligned framework for competency assessment for each of these modules co exists.

The Committee sought assistance through the European Wound Management Association (EWMA-2004) who had developed a core set of educational requirements for specific modules. In Collaboration with EWMA the AWMA module and competency assessment content documents were produced.

There is provision for some information to be excluded but those seeking endorsement for particular training modules must be able to explain why the content is not being taught (See Table 1).

Code	* Reasons why content not included in course
1	Learners have prior knowledge
2	Content considered irrelevant
3	Lack of time to deliver this content
4	Lack of expertise to deliver this content
5	Other reasons (please specify below)

Table 1

The time taken to deliver the content within each module is up to the presenter/organisation. AWMA is providing a guide only. The content suggestion could in some instances just have one slide on epidemiology and 20 slides on infection –the actual structure of the session/ presentation is up to the presenter/organisation. AWMA has however provided some suggestions as to what could be expected if all the content was covered.

These expectations are listed under the headings –Intellectual knowledge and understanding, and Practical skills and attributes. At this present time AWMA does not endorse education programs.

The module content checklist is a guide only. They are available to ensure presenters/organisations and those advertising courses understand what would be a minimum educational content for basic skin integrity and wound education programs. Likewise with the advanced programs – High Risk Foot; Oncology Related and Palliative Wounds and Conservative Sharp Wound Debridement.

Health professionals undertaking this module must have completed Module One: Introduction to Wound Management

The AWMA Standards for Wound Management underpin all modules and will be referred to in abbreviated form e.g. Standard 2 (S-2).

Intended learning outcomes of Module Six:

Completion of an AWMA accredited 'Management of Oncology Related and Palliative Wounds' module provides opportunities for health professionals to develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas using evidence based practice.

Intellectual knowledge and understanding of:

1. The epidemiology of oncology related wounds and principles of medical and palliative treatments.
2. Pathophysiology of cancer in relation to the skin
 - a. Tumour development
 - b. Primary skin tumours
 - c. Tumour infiltration of the skin through locally advanced, metastatic or tumour recurrence
 - d. Skin manifestations of hematological / lymphatic disorders.
3. The comprehensive assessment of the individual, their wound and/or their risk of wounding and their healing environment in order to establish aetiology.
4. The range of evidence based treatment modalities and/or symptom management: local and systemic wound management options.
5. The interprofessional approach for the assessment and management of individuals with oncology related and palliative wound and supportive care to individuals and families.
6. The service provider of local services providing cancer and palliative services.

Practical skills and attributes to:

1. Appropriately assess and document an individual with oncology related or palliative wounds.
2. Plan mutually agreed goals for care.
3. Effectively monitor and evaluate management outcomes in a timely manner.
4. Make best available evidence based management decisions, for optimizing outcomes for the individual. Acknowledge that expected clinical outcomes in the care of those with oncology / palliative care wounds may not include healing.
5. Differentiate between multiple presenting symptoms.
6. Initiate further investigations and identify when to seek further interprofessional collaboration.
7. Identify the psychosocial impact of oncology and palliative wounds.

MODULE CONTENT CHECKLIST

Indicate inclusion of educational content by placing a tick in column A

Where applicable: reasons for content not included in course insert a code (1-5) in column C

Note more than one code can be used.

Code	Reasons why content not included in course
1	Learners have prior knowledge
2	Content considered irrelevant
3	Lack of time to deliver this content
4	Lack of expertise to deliver this content
5	Other reasons (please specify below)

Inclusion (A)	Educational Content (B)	Reasons why content not included (Insert code 1-5)* (C)
1.0	Overview and Epidemiology * Core Module One plus:	
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The prevalence and incidence and data for oncology / palliative wounds 	
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The economic and human costs associated with oncology/ palliative wounds 	
2.0	Anatomy and Pathophysiology * Core Module One plus:	
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tumor development 	
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tumours that infiltrate the skin through local advancement, metastases and tumour recurrence 	
2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skin cancers with wound formation e.g. malignant melanoma, squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, Kaposi sarcoma 	
2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skin manifestations of hematological / lymphatic disorders 	
2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marjolins ulcer in chronic wounds 	
3.0	Comprehensive Individual Assessment *Core Module One plus:	
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diagnostic investigations specific to spreading tumours 	
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signs of tumour progression through the skin 	
3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signs and symptoms of tumour progression to internal organs and structure 	
4.0	Oncology and Palliative Wound Assessment *Core Module One plus:	
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wound assessment in light of objectives and patient comfort 	

5.0	Prevention of Oncology and Palliative Wounds	
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of risk factors e.g. sun exposition in melanoma; early detection of potentially ulcerating malignant tumors 	
5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification and actions in relation to signs and symptoms of tumour progression, e.g. spinal cord compression 	
6.0	Oncology and Palliative Management * Core Module One plus:	
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wound Management ▪ Involvement of the patient in setting goals for management of the wound 	
6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understanding of the functions of topical preparations and dressings 	
6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment of problems / individual issues and concerns at the wound site that can be managed with topical preparations and wound dressings ▪ Exudate control including peri wound skin protection ▪ Bleeding ▪ Emergency measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventive measures (care with bathing, non-fibrous/non-adherent dressings, cleaning techniques) • Palliative treatments (radiotherapy, embolisation, topical haemostats) • Malodour • Pain minimisation at dressing change 	

6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Medical Management:▪ Principles and controversies of curative and palliative approaches to treatment<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surgical options• Radiotherapy options• Neutron/ proton/electron therapy• Chemotherapy options• Embolisation• Laser treatments- dangers and potentials• Topical chemotherapy/chemostatic drugs• Brachytherapy	
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6.5

▪ **Symptom Management:**

- Assessment and differential diagnosis of presenting symptoms and how these may be interrelated, e.g. infection superimposed on active tumour infiltration of the skin
 - Symptoms related to the underlying systemic disease e.g. pain
 - Symptoms related to local conditions at the wound site e.g. stinging from local maceration, persistent bleeding, uncontrolled malodour and leakage of exudate
 - Use of medical treatments for palliation of symptoms, e.g. radiotherapy for bleeding points and pain management
 - Principles of the mediation of pain and purities:
 - World Health Organisation analgesic ladder; topical opioids;
 - Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS);
 - Acupuncture
 - Pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, drug interactions
 - Legal and ethical issues concerning the use of controlled drugs
 - Palliative Care Drug Formularies: use of drugs on a named patient basis for applications for which they are not licensed e.g. Sucralfate suspension normally used for gastric ulceration applied as a topical preparation to control local bleeding
 - Patient administered drugs, including continuous infusions and appropriate drug combinations

6.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interprofessional Intervention: ▪ Management of co-morbid conditions e.g. spinal cord Compression, recognition of symptoms and emergency actions required e.g. immediate referral, high dose steroids <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care of the patient with weakness and loss of mobility • Care of the patient with cancer-related fatigue • Stoma care • Lymphoedema prevention and treatment • Nutrition/dietary considerations, including enteral feeding for patients with head and neck cancer • Psychosocial problems; visibility of the malignancy, aesthetics, closeness/odor/depression, potential loss of self, body image, measurement of quality of life. • Consideration of Complimentary Alternative Medicine [CAM] options • Documentation e.g. assessment of risks; deep venous thrombosis, rupture of major blood vessels, pressure ulcers, infection, side-effects of immunosuppressive agents 	
7.0	Management of Infection * Core Module One plus:	
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Odour controlling dressings 	
8.0	Psychosocial Aspects of Care *Core Module One	
9.0	Rehabilitation Services *Core Module One plus	
9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Referral criteria to further support services 	

References:

1. Australian Wound Management Association, Standards for Wound Management, 2nd edition, West Leederville WA, Cambridge Publishing, 2010. Available from <http://www.awma.com.au/publication>
2. Australian Wound Management Association, Bacterial impact on healing: From contamination to infection (Position Paper), Version 1.5, West Leederville WA. Cambridge Publishing, 2011. Available from <http://www.awma.com.au/publication>
3. World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS). Principles of best practice: Wound infection in clinical practice. An international consensus. London: MEP Ltd, 2008. Available from www.mepltd.co.uk

