

## Introduction

Over the past decade new technology in wound related consumables has been shown to produce better results and require less health intervention.

Since 2009-10 the HACC funded nursing activity has included a block funded component to enhance access to these more expensive wound management consumables.

Allocated amounts are based on a formula applied on a recurrent basis to an organisation's nursing HACC activity budget.

This allocation supplements the nursing unit price in order to meet the needs of people who require these more expensive high-technology consumables.

The *Wound Management Consumables Fund* is a subsidy towards the cost of wound related consumables for people with complex wounds who do not have capacity to pay for these.

In 2013-14 a top up of the wound consumables funding allocation will be made to enhance access to wound consumables for people with wounds being managed by either their nurse or podiatrist.

Podiatrists and Nurses will work together to ensure best possible outcomes for HACC eligible people with wounds.

These guidelines cover the reporting requirements for HACC funded nursing services who receive the block funded component called wound management consumables.

## Eligibility criteria for accessing funds

Organisations should introduce a process to ensure the person meets **all** of the following eligibility criteria:

1. The person is HACC eligible and has a complex wound, that is, has failed to progress or respond to treatment over the expected healing time frame.
2. Financially disadvantaged or financially burdened by the cost of consumables
  - The nurse/podiatrist should make enquiries with the client regarding their ability to purchase the most appropriate wound consumables.
  - If a client identifies that this causes financial burden, the wound consumables funding may be accessed.
  - The key message to the client is that this assistance is temporary, and avenues for the client to part pay should also be investigated.
  - For more information see HACC fees policy (Victorian HACC program manual page 58)
3. The goals of the client have been determined and an agreed evidenced based treatment plan has been developed for all parties to follow.

## Nurse/Podiatry process

Before the nurse or podiatrist applies for access to the wound consumables fund the following should be completed:

Comprehensive assessment of the individual, their wound and their healing environment	Assessment needs to be completed in order to determine diagnosis and baseline for care planning.
Wound diagnosis/aetiology	Wound diagnosis/aetiology guides the appropriate evidenced based wound management plan. Examples include; venous leg ulcer, stage 2 pressure injury, neuro-ischaemic ulcer. <b>Please note:</b> terms such as leg ulcer, diabetic ulcer are not acceptable as a diagnosis
Referral	As a broad guide a Wound Clinical Nurse Consultant or Wound Resource Nurse should be involved with the wound management if there is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- diagnosis uncertainty</li> <li>- evidence that the wound has failed to progress</li> <li>- any wound that has been present &gt; 12 weeks</li> </ul>
Maximum 2 weeks supply per person at any one order	The goal of care for wounds can change quickly and require a different product type. For this reason it is more cost effective to order a maximum of 2 weeks supply dressing at any one time.
Assess the person's ability to pay for wound consumables	If not able to contribute then apply for access to the wounds consumables funds as appropriate.

### Access to funds

The Wound Management Consumables Funds are allocated to support evidence based best practice wound management across the HACC program and these guidelines will support the transparent allocation of funds across the state.

At a local level, podiatrists and nurses should collaborate in order to accommodate and prioritise acquisition of the funds to meet the person's wound management needs. This may mean that nursing agencies and podiatrists will need to develop local protocols.

### Process of review for access to ongoing financial assistance

This is at the discretion of the individual organisation and should take into consideration the person's quality of life, complexities, healing outcomes and financial status.

### Wound consumables activity report

Organisations will be required to submit an *Annual Service Activity report* to the Department of Health regional office to account for the wound consumable spending. This report provides evidence to the department that these funds have been used to expend the Wound Management Consumables Funds. The template for this report is available from the regional office.

To receive this publication in an accessible format email [hacc@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:hacc@health.vic.gov.au)  
 Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.