

Experts develop T.I.M.E. (Tissue, Inflammation, Moisture, Edge) clinical decision support tool (CDST) to facilitate consistency in delivery of wound care with the aim of improving patient outcomes

The T.I.M.E. CDST includes holistic patient assessment and supports a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach



Overview

- The T.I.M.E. principles of wound assessment and management were established by a group of experts and published in 2003¹
- T.I.M.E. has been widely adopted into clinical practice; however, its main focus was on wound management rather than holistic patient assessment, accurate diagnosis and ongoing evaluation of treatment outcomes
- A recent survey of delegates attending the European Wound Management Association (EWMA) annual meeting in 2018 highlighted the need for an easy to use, accurate and practical assessment framework for all healthcare professionals based on T.I.M.E. principles²
- A draft tool was developed based on the results of the EWMA survey, which was assessed and refined by an international group of expert clinicians to form the T.I.M.E. CDST



Key points

- The experts considered the essential elements of the T.I.M.E. CDST (Figure) to be holistic patient assessment and involvement of the MDT, followed by wound assessment and control of systemic causes, treating the elements of T.I.M.E. that are impeding wound healing and wound management
- T.I.M.E. CDST uses an evidence-based, 'A, B, C, D, E' approach that incorporates T.I.M.E. principles into a framework that nurses and other professionals can follow within their procedural guidelines
 - A. Assess patient, wellbeing and wound
 - B. Bring in MDT and informal carers to promote holistic care
 - C. Control or treat underlying causes and barriers to wound healing
 - D. Decide appropriate treatment
 - E. Evaluate and reassess the treatment and wound management outcomes

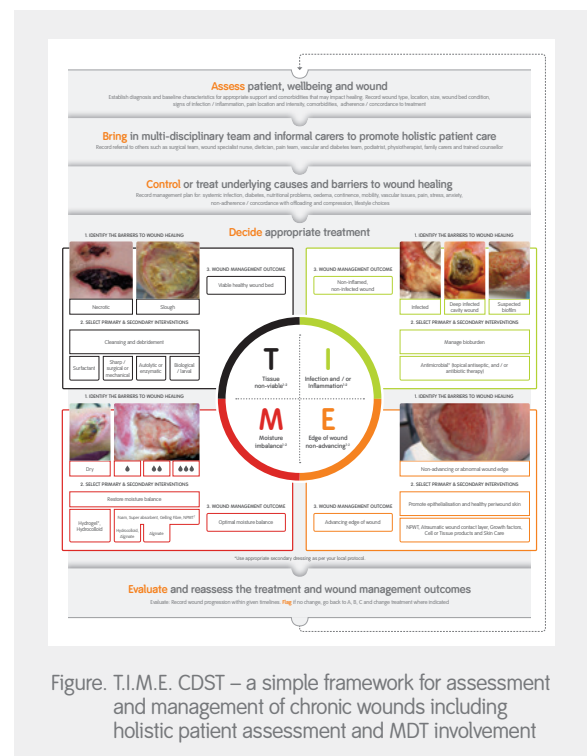


Figure. T.I.M.E. CDST – a simple framework for assessment and management of chronic wounds including holistic patient assessment and MDT involvement

Evidence in focus (continued)



Conclusion

The T.I.M.E. CDST provides a simple and accessible holistic framework that may help facilitate consistency in the delivery of wound care with the aim of improving patient outcomes.



Considerations

- The T.I.M.E. CDST framework will be evaluated in a clinical setting using measurable endpoints and compared with prior practice, an educational package will be developed to help healthcare professionals understand and implement the tool, and potential cost savings from its use will be assessed



Study citation

*Moore Z, Dowsett C, Smith G, *et al.* TIME CDST: an updated tool to address the current challenges in wound care. *J Wound Care.* 2019;28(3):154-161. Available at: [Journal of Wound Care](#)

References:

1. Schultz GS, Sibbald RG, Falanga V, *et al.* Wound bed preparation: a systematic approach to wound management. *Wound Repair Regen.* 2003;11 (Suppl 1):S1-28. 2. Ousey K, Gilchrist B, Jaimes H. Understanding clinical practice challenges: a survey performed with wound care clinicians to explore wound assessment frameworks. *Wounds International.* 2018;9(4):58-62.