

Review Group Membership

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Disclaimer:

Technology review is a brief report, prepared on an urgent basis, which draws on restricted reviews from analysis of pertinent literature, on expert opinion and / or regulatory status where appropriate. It is subjected to an external review process. While effort has been made to do so, this document may not fully reflect all scientific research available. Additionally, other relevant scientific findings may have been reported since completion of this review.

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Introduction

Historically, wound care decisions were often based on clinicians' opinion varying from one practitioner to another, which resulted in inconsistent assessment, care, and wound or patient-oriented outcomes. Quality wound care is a major concern for clinicians in all patient care environments. Algorithms have been developed to expedite the clinical decision-making process. Ideally, when used by both expert and non-expert staff (such as staff registered nurses) algorithm act as a guide to optimal clinical care delivery. Algorithms are graphic maps that allow users to visualize major cognitive component and processes of a problem. Clinical algorithms enable the clinician to complete a stepwise evaluation of a specific issue in patient care. Algorithms help healthcare professional on decision-making and allow users to apply large amount of information to practical solutions. By showing the "big picture" or meta-cognitive perspectives, algorithms help organize thinking, make relationships more meaningful, and highlight crucial decision points. Because they greatly affect the quality of patient care, algorithm content and usage need to be research-based. Although many guidelines, clinical pathways, and algorithms have been developed in healthcare (including wound care), to this day few are evidence-based and content-validated for actual end-user utilization.

The [REDACTED] Algorithms for Wound Care is a set of visual guidelines designed to help general health care professionals assess the wound characteristics that affect subsequent goal identification and treatment.

This technology review was conducted following a request from Principal Assistant Director, Surgical Unit, Medical Development Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia.

Objective/aim

To assess the effectiveness and cost of using [REDACTED] algorithm for wound care, not including the solutions and the dressings.

Results and conclusions

There was fair level of evidence to suggest the use of [REDACTED][®] Algorithm was effective in the management of wound care. Although there was no retrievable evidence on cost-effectiveness, direct cost showed that the [REDACTED][®] Algorithm seemed to be cheaper than traditional care (ointment and gauze) with or without a standardised wound management algorithm. However, the user of this algorithm must be well trained in the assessment of the chronic wound. The effectiveness, safety and cost-effectiveness of the solutions and dressings were not included in this review.

Methods

A systematic method of literature searching and selection was employed in the preparation of this review using the following databases such PUBMED, Medline Ovid, Cochrane Systematic review database via Ovid, HTA agencies and Clinical Practice Guidelines. In addition general search engine Goggle was searched. ConvaTec was also contacted to provide any scientific evidence available.