

# Learn How Kindred Hospitals Can Help Manage Complex Wound Patients

## THE COMPLEX WOUND CHALLENGE

Complex wounds represent a growing challenge to the healthcare community. As patients age and develop an increasing number of comorbidities, including diabetes and obesity, they are more prone to developing wounds and to experiencing longer recoveries.<sup>1</sup> In today's healthcare environment, the lack of standard treatment and formal education on wound care has had a detrimental effect on patients and costs, which are estimated to be more than \$28 billion each year for the Medicare population alone.<sup>2</sup>

## TRANSITIONING WOUND CARE PATIENTS TO SPECIALIZED SETTINGS

Discharge decisions for complex wound patients can have a significant impact on patients, hospitals, and payors.



In one recent case study, two hospitals reduced wound patients' lengths of stay, readmissions, and care costs by establishing a process of early evaluation and timely discharge to settings with high standards of wound care quality.<sup>3</sup>

According to wound care research, quality wound care programs should include patient-centeredness, formal wound care training, team-based treatment, and standard protocols.<sup>4</sup>

## ADVANCED WOUND CARE AT KINDRED HOSPITALS

Kindred Hospitals, which provide physician-led, long-term acute care for complex patients, offer wound patients ICU-level treatment, including IV pain management and debridement, and access to services such as pharmacies and rehabilitation.

Because Kindred Hospitals are licensed as acute care specialty hospitals, stable wound patients can be transferred to Kindred while they are still in critical condition, reducing their lengths of stay.



**Dr. Dean French** is Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of ScionHealth, parent company of Kindred Hospitals. Having previously served as Chief Medical Officer for multiple hospitals, Dr. French is an experienced physician executive. His unique perspective and capabilities are based on his nearly 20 years of outstanding experience in transformational and collaborative leadership in hospitals and health systems nationwide.

**At Kindred, patients benefit from an advanced wound care program that reflects the characteristics of a quality program mentioned above.**

- **Formal Wound Care Training:** All wound care coordinators are certified in advanced wound care.
- **Patient Centeredness:**
  - Physicians visit patients daily and interdisciplinary care teams meet at the bedside to discuss care plans with the patient and family.
  - Care continues after discharge through the AfterCare program of follow-up communications after patients have left Kindred.
- **Team-Based Treatment:** Interdisciplinary care teams of physicians specializing in wound care, certified nurses, nutritionists, rehabilitation therapists, pharmacists, and other specialists provide coordinated treatment.
- **Standard Protocols:** Our wound care program includes:
  - Immediate wound care assessment upon admission
  - Robust turning and repositioning programs
  - Multi-treatment options for chronic and acute wounds
  - Regular screening for sepsis development
  - Routine assessment for appropriate therapeutic surfaces
  - Replacement schedule for therapeutic surfaces

With our specialty in treating critically ill patients, and our advanced wound care initiatives, Kindred is an important site of care for complex wound patients. Early transfer of complex wound patients to a Kindred Hospital can help promote healing, while reducing inpatient lengths of stay and avoidable readmissions.

**Learn more about how Kindred Hospitals can help your complex wound patients.**

## REFERENCES

1. <https://www.dovepress.com/getfile.php?fileID=60210>
2. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33409037/>
3. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/irwj.13308>
4. <https://www.healogics.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Earlier-Specialized-Physician-Intervention-Lowers-Costs-Readmissions-and-Length-of-Stay.pdf>

