

# WoundsWest wound survey 2008

## Key results at a glance

WoundsWest's 2008 state-wide wound prevalence survey has gathered valuable information on wounds and wound management, enabling hospitals to track improvements in care and focus resources in the right areas.

As a consequence of this survey recommendations have been developed to assist in decreasing the rate of hospital-acquired wounds and improve the continuity of wound care across WA public hospitals.

As a result of WoundsWest's 2007 survey, WA public hospitals received \$5 million in funding for pressure reducing mattresses and other equipment.

WoundsWest's advisory service and education program provide access to information and education on evidence-based and best practice in wound care. (Available now: Core, Pressure Ulcer and Foot Ulcer modules).

More information on WoundsWest education and more detailed reports on the surveys can be found at [www.health.wa.gov.au/woundswest](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/woundswest)

2008		2007	Change 2007- 2008
<b>Population</b>			
3,024	Patients consented to a full skin inspection	2,777	247 more patients <sup>1</sup>
268	Staff received education and training	220	48 more staff
100%	Health services participated <sup>2</sup>	100%	Unchanged
<b>Prevalence</b>			
48%	Wound prevalence (1 or more wound of any type: acute, burns, leg ulcers, malignant, pressure ulcers, skin tears and other wounds)	49%	1% decrease
<b>Wounds</b>			
25%	Potentially preventable hospital-acquired pressure ulcers and skin tears	19%	6% increase
69%	Wounds with current documentation	74%	5% decrease
<b>Pressure ulcers</b>			
9%	Patients with 1 or more hospital-acquired pressure ulcers	8%	1% increase
52%	Patients with a RAT <sup>3</sup> performed within 24 hrs of admission	39%	13% increase
91%	Patients with a pressure ulcer who had a pressure relieving device insitu	82%	9% increase
<b>Contextual data</b>			
58%	ACHS EQUIP 4 pressure ulcer reporting in place	21%	37% increase
54%	Participation in SQuIRe Clinical Practice Improvement program	25%	29% increase
51%	Patient literature on wound prevention and care in use	47%	4% increase

Note: <sup>1</sup>In 2008 329 public aged care beds were included in the survey and 86% of these patients consented to skin inspection (n = 284)

<sup>2</sup>In 2007 80% hospitals (n = 68) had eligible patients to survey and in 2008 96.5% (n = 83) of hospitals had eligible patients to survey

<sup>3</sup>RAT – Risk Assessment Tool



The 2008 wound survey objectives and outcomes were:

### Objectives

1. Use the WoundsWest methodology to identify the magnitude of wounds in WA public health services. **(Process)**
2. Collect a second wound prevalence dataset to analyse, compare and report results from both surveys. **(Data)**
3. Provide current information for strategic planning to improve wound prevention and management across the WA public health system. **(Opportunity)**

### Outcomes

1. WoundsWest audit process completed across 100% WA public health services and wound prevalence established.
2. Data collected from 3,451 patients, 86 health services, 268 staff trained.
3. Improvement in continuity and standard of wound care through collection and use of data and access to evidence-based education and expert wound advice.

### Recommendations

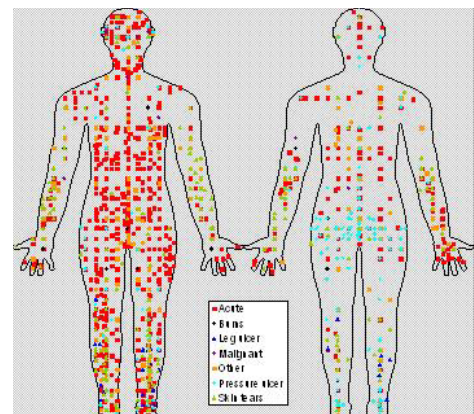
The following recommendations present opportunities to achieve a reduction in preventable hospital-acquired wounds and improve the continuity of wound care across the state.

WoundsWest recommends that WA Health and health services:

- Work towards 100% of inpatients receiving a pressure ulcer risk assessment within 24 hours of admission.
- Work towards 100% of patients, families or carers receiving information on pressure ulcer prevention on admission.
- Introduce routine pressure ulcer incidence monitoring to assist with tracking cause and effect of changes in wound prevention and management at a local and state level.
- Work towards the introduction of a state-wide skin tear classification system and the investigation of evidence-based prevention and management strategies for skin tears.
- Increase access to and promote the use of the WoundsWest Education Program for all WA Health staff with a 50% increase in the number of clinical staff completing the pressure ulcer module in the next 12 months.

### Other wound categories

In 2009 WoundsWest will further analyse and report on other wound category data collected in these surveys.



Proportion of wounds by wound category

