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Background

Patients with complex lower limb wounds often have multiple medical comorbidities that contribute to wound non-healing and chronicity. These patients can require treatment from several different specialists leading to delays in diagnosis, treatment and healing.

The Fraser Health Complex Wound Centre (CWC) is a multidisciplinary practice setting that provides timely consultation with specialists and then coordinates a treatment plan that is aligned with patient goals.

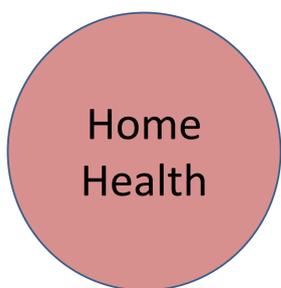
In patients with identifiable risk factors for wound chronicity, we hypothesize that earlier referral to the CWC (from the time of injury) will result in faster diagnosis, treatment and healing.



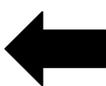
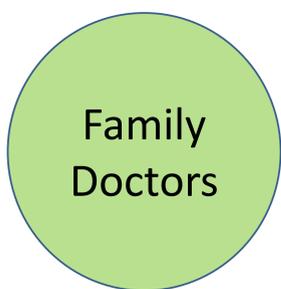
• Reduce the time to referral to the CWC (from the time a wound is first seen by a medical practitioner) by 50% in 6 months (April 2018)

Project Design & Strategy

We targeted our major referral bases, encouraging them to IMMEDIATELY refer patients with identifiable risk factors (for example, diabetes, vascular disease, systemic inflammatory disorders, and obesity) AND lower limb wounds.



Home Health Office visits by CWC Physician Lead



General Practitioner Engagement Letter

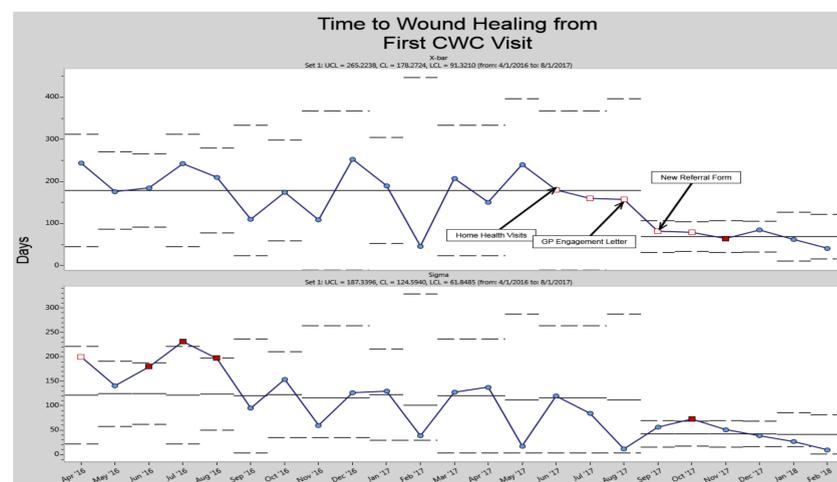
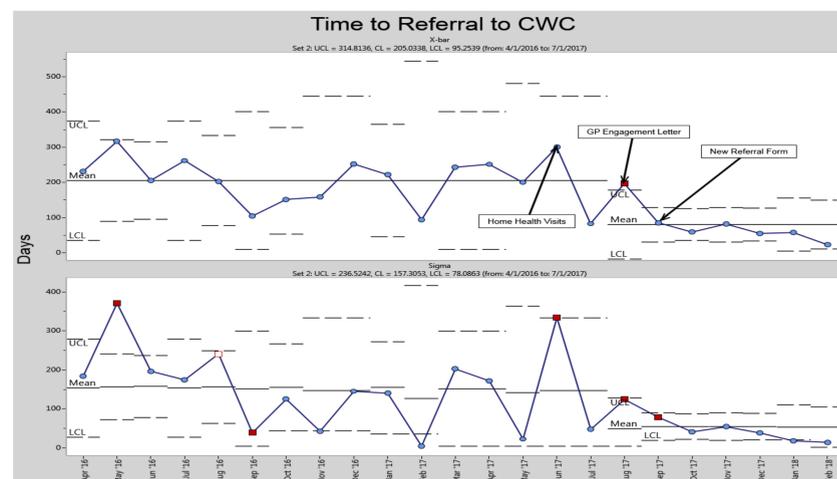
Changes Made

New Referral Form on FORMFAST and PATHWAYS

New Criteria for immediate referral

Open referral base to home health, GPs and Specialists

Results



A 50% reduction in time to referral was achieved within 6 months



A corresponding 50% reduction in healing times was also observed

Lessons Learned & Next Steps

- Early referral to the CWC resulted in earlier diagnosis, treatment and healing.
- This will likely result in cost savings from avoided expenses from ongoing wound care and complications of chronic wounds (infections, amputations, etc). This needs to be further studied.

Special thanks to all the staff at the Fraser Health Complex Wound Centre and staff of the Fraser Health Physician Quality Improvement Program without whom this work would not be possible.