

Fujitsu **HEALING** acute and chronic wounds

"MWC has the potential to completely transform the wound management process at PAH – with efficiency gains produced as a result of better clinical outcomes."

Ros Probert, Clinical Nurse Consultant in Stomal Therapy Wound Management
Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH)



The challenge

In an environment of acute shortages in the health care arena, the solving of issues which consume large amounts of time, medications and supplies is high on the agenda for hospital administrators. The treatment of complex wounds is one such issue.

Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH), Brisbane, is one of Queensland's leading teaching and research hospitals whose 5,000 staff care for more than 74,000 admissions each year. Approximately 20 per cent of patients require treatment for wounds. PAH's management is committed to reduce wound heal times for patients, lower the cost of care and maximise the deployment of scarce wound care specialist resources.

Ros Probert, Clinical Nurse Consultant in Stomal Therapy Wound Management at PAH, said: "Clinical consumables related to wound care occupy a significant portion of our hospital's budget."

PAH discovered that an organisation in Canada had used HSAGlobal's Mobile Wound Care Solution to reduce wound heal times by 38 percent and nursing time dedicated to wound management by 70 percent.

Through a partnership between HSAGlobal and Fujitsu, the advanced Wound Care technology was brought to Australia.

SUMMARY OF THE KEY FACTS

The challenge

To assist Princess Alexandra Hospital in reducing wound heal times for patients, lowering the cost of their care and maximising the deployment of its Wound Care Specialists.

The solution - Fujitsu's Mobile Wound Care

Mobile Wound Care is part of a software platform known in Australia as Fujitsu Carepoint which is based on products by HSAGlobal.

The benefits

The Mobile Wound Care solution enables an evidence-based, continuous improvement cycle for wound care practice. Mobile Wound Care:

- Provides Princess Alexandra Hospital with real-time access to information to improve patient care and hospital management
- Supports interventions and changes in practice for long term benefits
- Was easy to implement and is cost effective to maintain.

The Fujitsu Carepoint - MWC solution

Fujitsu's Carepoint Mobile Wound Care (MWC) offering to PAH combined HSAGlobal's point of care software with the Windows/Motion C5 tablet device. Licensed as a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) model, MWC is affordable, available and easy to use.

As the software is hosted on Fujitsu infrastructure at its secure datacentre, initial set-up and hardware costs were significantly reduced. All software licensing, application hardware and support is provided for a fixed monthly fee which allows for a high level of cost control and scalability.

A pilot was commissioned in February 2009 to give PAH the opportunity to improve wound care practice and outcomes in relation to heal time, cost of care, product utilisation, pressure wound and other wound prevalence and the specialist consultation service.

Overseeing the rollout was HSAGlobal's Jennifer Caldwell whose clinical background ensured her understanding of both the technical and clinical issues: "As this is a SaaS solution, it was more about training than an implementation. We teach you how to use it and then you manage it yourself. There's no ongoing consulting required and it only took 4 weeks from the project commencement to go-live."

Ros Probert said: "We got great support from all involved and the project was up and running on go-live day which was brilliant."

During the pilot, wound consultations were still conducted at the bedside using the MWC system. The future of the

application is its ability to send photos taken on the ward to the Wound Care Team for them to 'visit' patients remotely, update wound care visit forms and return a recommended treatment plan to the ward. "Wound care specialists will not need to physically view all patients referred to them from the wards," Ros Probert said.

"The functionality of MWC allows for the measurement and cross-referenced reporting of all aspects of wound care including: heal time by patient, wound, clinician and location; cost of wound care per patient and wound; product utilisation; referral patterns; and caseloads."

The benefits

Ros Probert said; "It is a fantastic tool for monitoring how clinical consumables are being used and if they are being used appropriately. For the first time we have access to critical information, in real-time at the point of care. The pilot showed us reporting of previously unmeasurable information such as heal times and cost of care. It allowed us to accurately measure the impact of any interventions which leads to evidence-based decision making."

"MWC has the potential to completely transform the wound management process at PAH – with efficiency gains produced as a result of better clinical outcomes. The key task in the next phase will be to take the learnings from the pilot and work in partnership with HSAGlobal and Fujitsu to make enhancements to the software to maximise its potential in both acute and community settings, both for a streamlined rollout at PAH and for the broader health sector in Australia," Ros Probert said.

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