

Topic:

Home Health Care – Wound Care

Our Client:

Diabetic, Single-Leg Amputee Patient Suffering Stage 2 and 3 Pressure Ulcers On Leg

Situation:

- Male, 55+ years of age
- Multiple co-morbidities: diabetes, morbid obesity, hypertension, lymphedema, previous leg amputation
- Physician prescribed home health care for Stage 2 & Stage 3 pressure ulcers

Challenges:

- Communication and coordination of care between the local wound clinic and CareSouth's home health care professionals
- Negative pressure device tubing causing new pressure ulcers, infections and heavy drainage – impeding healing
- Inability to exercise during healing process causing weakness and fatigue
- Patient concerns about the slow process of healing - compounded by past experience and amputation of one leg

Solution:

- Daily in-home treatment for pressure wounds by CareSouth skilled nurse until arrival of negative pressure device
- Upon arrival of wound negative pressure device, treatments to pressure wounds performed by CareSouth home health nurse in coordination with

Solution (continued):

- weekly visits to the local wound clinic
- CareSouth followed-up weekly visits with wound clinic to notify of any issues –
 - Nurse follow-up resulted in notification to wound clinic of new pressure ulcers caused by off-loading boot.
 - Coordination of care with wound clinic regarding measures to prevent further skin breakdown
 - Nurse follow-up visits resulted in request to physician to increase negative suction on wound negative pressure device to clear heavy drainage more effectively
 - Follow-up with physician to request antibiotic for wound infection
- CareSouth provided education and encouragement for patient to keep blood sugar under control and stay off foot to aid in the healing process
- Physician prescribed physical therapy, provided by CareSouth, to improve upper body strength
- Physician prescribed medical social worker, provided by CareSouth, to assist patient with high cost of incurred medical expenses
- CareSouth Homecare Professionals assisted patient in obtaining orders for bariatric wheel chair
- Staff of CareSouth called patient & caregiver every few days after release from home health care to monitor status

Results:

- Improved mobility and activities of daily living
- Occasional driving - five months after discharge
- All wounds healed over eight months
- Patient's fear of losing his remaining leg relieved

Comments from Staff & Patient:

“I find it hard to put into words the satisfaction all of us who were involved, including CareSouth staff from other offices who assisted for weekend visits, from nursing, physical therapy and medical social worker. This is why we do what we do! To make a difference in someone's life is the most rewarding experience any of us can have! Henry still calls about every week or two to thank us for saving his leg. He said, ‘Without all of you, I don't know what would have happened.’ The excitement in his voice always puts a smile on my face.” ~ *Mary Ann, Murfreesboro Clinical Manager*

For Home Health Care Request CareSouth - Call 800-241-3363 or Visit Us Online at www.caresouth.com/caresouth-find-agency/

more trust.

more results.

more time.