



Wound Healing
Foundation

Wound Healing Foundation statement on COVID-19 Pandemic on March 30, 2020

Wound care patients are at high risk for hospitalization and death if they contract COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, focusing on mitigating the disease and maintaining a stock of personal protective equipment (PPE) has changed standard procedures. Many institutions have reportedly closed wound clinics preventing wound patients from obtaining much needed services, procedures and surgeries. Chronic wound patients often present with other comorbidities such as older age, diabetes, hypertension, lung disease, peripheral arterial disease, venous insufficiency and obesity any of which increases their susceptibility to COVID-19. The unintended consequence of losing access to wound care can increase the risk of the wound deteriorating which could require hospitalization and possible amputation. Wound care is essential to the health of wound patients. For this reason, the Alliance for Wound Care Stakeholders drafted a letter that wound care clinicians may use to justify ongoing care ([Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders](#)).

Supporting wound health care providers at this time is important in order to transition to a new normal, of more telemedicine while still aggressively combating infection through key wound care procedures. Use of new technology can play a strong role in optimizing wound care and helping determine when a wound patient needs to be seen in person in order to minimize hospitalization and potential exposure to COVID-19. The Wound Healing Society has developed some suggested guidelines to help clinicians navigate our new normal at this time ([Wound Healing Society](#)).

Chronic wound care patients and their care givers provide essential information about their health status to providers. Therefore, an open line of communication between the wound patient/care giver and the wound care provider is key. This can be a call, text, e-mail, telehealth virtual visit or if needed, in person appointment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Medicare has greatly expanded telehealth visits under the 1135 waiver ([Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#)). Wound care providers interested in using telemedicine may find this webinar helpful ([Association for the Advancement of Wound Care](#)). The Wound Healing Foundation has developed some tips for patients to help them provide pertinent and critical information about their wound when communicating with their wound care provider ([Wound Healing Foundation](#)).

The Wound Healing Foundation is confident that with the challenges facing us during the COVID-19 pandemic, more opportunities will arise and result in unique solutions and treatments for wound care patients.

The Wound Healing Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to improve the quality of life for wound healing patients and their families through support of awareness, research and education.

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WHF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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