

Podiatrists and Wound Care

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

This month's theme is "Podiatrists and Wound Management", which has become an annual feature of the August issue of *Podiatry Management*. Given the evolving nature of health-care, and the increases in diabetes, obesity, and aging in the population, the need for wound care of the lower extremity is likely to grow in the coming years. As podiatrists, we are uniquely situated to meet rising demand.

Add to this the declining reimbursement for surgical services and you soon realize that wound care is a financially sound way to maintain the fiscal integrity of your practice while saving lives and limbs. This is not to say that wound care is without its challenges. For example, the current state of cellular tissue product LCDs is in limbo and will likely not be resolved until sometime in 2026.

Healing wounds can also be difficult due to lack of vascularity, poor nutrition, diabetes, co-morbidities, and patient non-compliance, to name a few. Treating wounds also requires a lot of patience as many wounds tend to be chronic, requiring weeks, months, or even years to totally heal. Despite our best efforts, many wounds result in amputations or even patient death.

Ultimately, our special training in medicine, surgery, and biomechanics makes us a vital part of any wound care team. The rewards for including wound care in your practice go beyond any financial remuneration. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

Respectfully Submitted,

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