



Title: Venous Leg Ulcers, assessment and treatment in long term care

Objective: To identify patients with venous leg ulcers at a long-term care (LTC) home and assess for appropriateness to initiate pentoxifylline therapy in accordance to Health Quality Ontario's (HQO) recommendations, as well as educate prescribers on the evidence for pentoxifylline.

Methods: 263 patients at a long-term care home were assessed for eligibility using the HQO Venous Leg Ulcers Quality Standards (i.e., "Quality Statement 10: Treatment with Pentoxifylline") as a guide. A list of patients was generated using the diagnoses "peripheral vascular disease", "venous insufficiency", and "venous ulcers" from the home's electronic health record system. Using the list, health care providers (i.e. wound care nurses, registered nurses, and physicians) were consulted and skin assessments were reviewed to determine the patients' eligibility for pentoxifylline. The Cochrane Review (2012) on "Pentoxifylline for Treating Venous Leg Ulcers" was subsequently used to summarize the evidence and apply its applicability to the LTC population.

Results: 21 patients were identified in the diagnoses search results to have some degree of venous insufficiency. 3 of 21 patients presented with slow-healing stasis ulcer(s). A summary report of evidence and recommendations to start pentoxifylline for the 3 patients were provided to the physician. Therapy was initiated in 2 of 3 patients.

Conclusion: A review of the HQO Quality Standards for patients with venous leg ulcers at the LTC home has identified areas to further optimize and standardize care by recommending pentoxifylline therapy to improve ulcer healing and educating primary care clinicians on the evidence for use.

Submitted by: Elaine Tai¹, PharmD, Noël Belcourt², BN, MPH, CIC, Sally Ebsary^{1,3}, RPh, MA, PharmD, BCGP

¹School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science, University of Waterloo, Kitchener, ON, Canada

²Sunnyside Home Long-Term Care, Kitchener, ON, Canada

³Remedy's Rx Specialty Pharmacy, Cambridge, ON, Canada