

Supporting Clinicians treating chronic oedema during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Haddenham Healthcare Ltd are a company specialising in products and services to aid management of patients with chronic oedema/lymphoedema. We are a family run, British owned company who have been supporting clinicians for over 21 years. We have a clinical team who have a collective knowledge in managing Lymphoedema and wound care of over 170 years who are all involved in not only treating patients but training in this area.

Challenges of Chronic oedema in the community.

The challenges of treating this patient group are somewhat amplified during this time as many specialist services are scaling back treatments and patient contacts, staff are being redeployed to other areas and patient care is being placed in the hands of community and district nurses.

Where possible it is still important to recognise the signs and symptoms of chronic oedema and implement treatments, primarily compression therapy, skin care and exercise as soon as possible. Overall aim is to encourage patients' self-care and reduce the risk of complications such as cellulitis, which may result in a hospital admission if left untreated.

Furthermore, for those patients on your caseloads who are currently receiving regular visits to reapply compression bandages, those with wet legs (lymphorrhoea) or those who are struggling to manage their current treatment regime, you may be wondering where you go next with treatment options.

It is important to recognise that identification and treatment of the patient with chronic oedema requires a holistic approach, recognising underlying causes and treating them effectively. Furthermore for those patients who are currently receiving treatment, this must be evaluated and titrating depending on if the oedema is being managed effectively.

Online training to assist decision making

Our online training platform has been developed by our Clinical specialists and is there as a tool to give you the theoretical underpinnings of management of this patient group. During this time, where demands are ever increasing due to the Covid 19 crisis, utilising online platforms as an alternative to face to face training is paramount. This will allow you to increase your knowledge and skills in this area, enabling self-care for patients, where possible, whilst also gaining valuable CPD hours for future revalidation.

Furthermore the use of decision making tools, such as the flow charts which form part of this online training, will give you the confidence to modify treatment regimens to suit each one of your patients in relation to current symptoms experienced and hopefully prevent their condition from deteriorating further.

There are many strategies that can be initiated to reduce clinical visits or the time spent at each visit. By modifying treatment strategies it is hoped that this will reduce some of the pressures that you experience in your daily practice and will also allow you to distribute your workload more effectively between the team, particularly if you have reduced staffing due to team members self-isolating.

For further information please visit our CPD directory page.