Title: Health service pathways for patients with chronic leg ulcers: identifying effective pathways for facilitation of evidence based wound care.

Version: 1 Date: 3 December 2012

Reviewer: anita stern

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions-None

Minor Essential Revisions: 1. In comparisons of number of different health specialists seen, the authors report 'wound clinics' are one provider. As this is a prospective study, the number and types of providers seen in wound clinics would be available, and should be recorded to enable comparisons based on single providers prior to, and post wound clinic involvement.

2. The authors state that implementation of evidence based care was more likely in the retrospective and prospective periods if specialists were involved, however all patients in the prospective period had specialists involved via the wound clinics. This statement should be corrected and limited to the retrospective period alone.

3. Limitations should be clearly stated: a) The retrospective aspect of this study relied on patient surveys and self report over a 12 mth period limiting reliability of these data; b) limitations of before/after study design i.e. does not allow attribution of causality; c) selection bias- the study was limited to patients entering wound clinics, limiting generalizability of study results;

Discretionary Revisions: None.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests