



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Attention:** Assignment Editors / Municipal Reporters

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### **CKHA and CCAC Partnership Results in Better Care for Community**

Chatham, ON- Every year, thousands of Canadians suffer from chronic non-healing wounds that can become infected and, in extreme cases, result in amputation or death. Age, smoking, poor dietary habits and obesity can increase a person's risk of developing a chronic wound, as can conditions such as hypertension and diabetes, which limit blood flow and slow the body's healing process. Preventing wounds with best practices is the key to limiting risks to health.

To positively impact the care and outcomes of patients requiring wound and skin care, the Erie St. Clair Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) and Chatham-Kent Health Alliance (CKHA) have established a partnership to educate hospital and community nurses and health care providers about best practices in skin care and wound prevention and healing.

Wound and skin care issues account for significant healing time for the patient, longer hospital stays, and significant health care resources and service hours for the health professionals. By working and learning together and ensuring consistent practices, the outcome will be a better experience and results for patients, and ultimately substantial savings for the health care system.

The leading work of CCAC and CKHA in wound and skin care has recently been profiled at provincial conferences.

"This initiative seems like common sense, but working from the same playbook can be challenging in our large health care system," said Betty Kuchta, Chief Executive Office of the CCAC. "By sharing best practices and using similar medical techniques and products a greater number of our residents will require less care while at the same time enjoying better results. They will heal faster."

"The objective is to create a seamless process for the residents of our region who require care," added Colin Patey, President and Chief Executive Officer of CKHA. "A partnership such as ours involves health care providers from our hospital setting working with those who provide service in the community. It's through collaborative work such as this that the healthcare system will improve for better patient outcomes."

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