

Provision of wound care in rest home
16HDC00680, 15 June 2018

Rest home ~ Wound care ~ Short-term care plan ~ Documentation ~ Right 4(1)

An elderly woman was admitted to a rest home for respite care. She had an existing injury to her right shin that was being treated by a visiting registered nurse. The nurse treated the wound and discharged the woman from her care, although the woman remained at the rest home.

A few days later the woman injured her right calf. A nurse from the rest home dressed the wound and completed various wound assessment documents. A Short Term Care Plan (STCP) was not created for the care of the wound and, over the following days, there was no documentation regarding whether the dressing was changed.

Three days later the woman was transferred to a long-term residential apartment at the rest home. The existence of the dressing was noted but, over the following days, there was no documentation regarding whether the dressing was changed.

Nineteen days after the injury occurred, the dressing was changed. Over the next few days the existence of the dressing was recorded but there was no documentation regarding whether the dressing was changed.

The woman asked for the dressing to be checked, but there is no documentation regarding whether this was done. The next day, the woman's family took her to her GP. The GP recorded that there was a yellow discharge from the wound, that it was smelly, that the dressing was wet, and that there was cellulitis surrounding the wound.

Findings

The rest home breached Right 4(1) by failing to develop an STCP for the care of the wound, failing to provide adequate wound care, and failing to monitor the wound adequately.

Recommendations

It was recommended that the rest home provide HDC with the training material and the training records associated with its new wound management policy. It was also recommended that the rest home conduct a random audit of its wound care documentation, to assess compliance with the wound management policy.

As recommended, the rest home provided an apology to the woman.