SKIN & WOUND CARE GUIDELINES

Progress Report June 23, 2010

A request was generated by the PABC Practice Guideline Advisory Task Force to provide guidance for clinicians in best practice for skin & wound care.

The BC PT Skin & Wound Knowledge Translation Committee (Nancy Cho, Sarah Rowe, Rebecca Packer, Michelle Jacobs, Rochelle Graham, Leah Keiffer, Leslie Hopkins, Emily Motyka, Heather Newsome, Angela Ng, Sondra Ng, Oksana Peczeniuk, Devon Tyler, Fiona Wright) is focusing on the following 4 objectives:

- Increase the awareness of the role of PTs in the prevention & management of skin & wound care issues
- Increase the number of PTs who undertake a basic risk assessment to aid in the prevention of wounds
- Increase the number of PTs who utilize electrical stimulation for treatment of wounds
- Increase the number of PTs who know where to find guidance and information on more advanced assessment and intervention techniques

Accordingly, the following steps have been undertaken and/or are in process:

1. To determine the current level of awareness of PTs regarding the PT role in skin & wound care issues & to determine the number who utilize basic and more advanced assessments & interventions

A survey was undertaken. The on-line questionnaire was distributed through an announcement in the CPTBC newsletter, PABC e-blasts and email via the Public Practice Distribution List. A total of 243 surveys were completed. The detailed results of the survey are available on both the PABC and UBC Dept of PT websites.

An awareness package, including post-it notes with targeted messaging about the role of PT with skin and wound issues, will be distributed through PABC.

2. To develop learning resources / adoption strategies to guide basic risk assessment, wound assessment & interventions for wounds.

The BC PT Skin & Wound Knowledge Translation Committee has developed a 1 page tool for PT clinicians to guide the prevention (risk assessment), basic assessment and interventions for wound care. The Braden Risk Assessment Tool is the selected tool for risk assessment.

3. To provide on-line learning resources to guide the use of electrical stimulation for wound care.
The BC PT Skin & Wound Knowledge Translation Committee, together with PABC, will be providing video instruction (theory and practical) for the utilization of electrical stimulation to treat wounds.

4. To provide on-line learning resources, tools and links on advanced assessment and intervention for skin & wound care issues.

An inventory of resources is being collated for posting on the PABC and UBC Dept of PT websites.