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DOMINATE WOUNDS

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Chronic wounds are a significant health problem worldwide. Often they are initially managed with various focal treatments until a specialist becomes involved, sometimes weeks or months after treatment has begun. Even at the specialist level, practices and guidelines are inconsistent due to a lack of high-level evidence. A disease management system for chronic wounds that is simple, practical, and adoptable by a variety of wound care practitioners is needed. Such a system would guide wound care providers to address the critical aspects of wound care in a prioritized, systematic sequence, leading to faster healing of simple wounds, and timely advancement to more complex therapies for wounds that require such treatment. This paper describes an empirically developed wound care management system that has been successfully implemented and provides evidence-based rationale for each of its components. Relatively simple and practical, this system organizes an approach to any type of wound, routine or complex.