

Home Diabetic foot ulcer service: a safe and clinically effective model for managing patients with diabetic foot ulcers in the community *Wilson C J; Coggins C; Price L; Richards J; Ghaffar A Dorset County Hospital Foundation Trust.*

Aims:

In 2014-2015 the National Diabetes Foot Care Audit (NDFA) estimated that the cost of diabetic foot disease to the NHS in England is £1 billion per annum. We have introduced a service which aims to manage patients with diabetic foot ulcers in the community. This should result in financial gains and improved patient outcomes whilst in accordance with the national objective of managing patients in the community.

Our 'Acute Hospital at Home' (AHAH) service is managed by a multidisciplinary team including Medical Consultants, Junior Doctors, Microbiologists, Nurses, Physiotherapists and Healthcare assistants.

Method:

We have performed a retrospective analysis of 42 patients. 23 of these patients had their management aided by the AHAH service, whilst 19 patients were solely treated in the hospital inpatient environment.

Results:

The study shows that patients managed through AHAH had shorter length of inpatient stays: 5.6 days compared to 24.7. The cost of an AHAH bed is £100/day and an acute medical bed is £280/day which results in a saving of £3788 per patient per admission from our study. Equivalence has been proved in rates of amputation, readmissions and death. We know patient satisfaction is significantly better for those managed in the community.

Conclusion:

The results demonstrate clear benefits of managing patients with diabetic foot ulcers in the community. Not only clear cost advantages but also significantly improved patient satisfaction and clinical outcome. We believe that that the AHAH service is a safe and hugely valuable clinical service which could be widely applied across healthcare.