



The Canadian Association  
for Enterostomal Therapy

Association Canadienne  
des Stomothérapeutes

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Press Release: For Immediate Release:

October 24, 2016. Ottawa, Ontario. The Canadian Association for Enterostomal Therapy, the national association representing nurses specialized in wound, ostomy and continence care, expresses concern over recent reports in the media related to pressure (sore) injuries resulting in life threatening complications, experienced by individuals living in Long Term Care facilities.

Individuals living with complex wounds require specialized care and support. Enterostomal Therapy Nursing is the only nursing specialty with Canadian Nurses Association certification in wound, ostomy and continence care. Enterostomal Therapy Nurses have advanced knowledge, skill and standardization through specialized certification. They are ideally situated to collaborate with the Long Term Care interdisciplinary team to predict, prevent, and manage complex and chronic wounds in the Long Term Care population. It has been shown that the greater the involvement of an Enterostomal Therapy Nurse, the better the clinical outcomes, including shorter healing times and cost savings. Despite this, Enterostomal Therapy Nurses are frequently not consulted for the care of individuals living in Long Term Care facilities.

A Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) study concluded that complex wounds including pressure sores are widespread in the Long Term Care setting and are a measurement of quality of care. CIHI reported that many wounds are avoidable and should be effectively managed in their early stages. To minimize the financial and human impact of wounds, efforts should focus on prevention and management of wounds across all health care settings.

Without access to healthcare professionals with advanced knowledge in the area of wound care, individuals and their care providers are confronted with physical, financial and psychological complications. The Canadian Association for Enterostomal Therapy firmly believes that all individuals living in a Long Term Care setting must have access to care provided by an Enterostomal Therapy Nurse. We call to action the need to mandate access to Enterostomal Therapy Nurses for all individuals living in Long Term Care settings.

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