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silhouette®
wound + skin assessment

Enabling Better Community Care

Customer Stories

In South Derbyshire, UK, Silhouette is enabling healthcare teams to gather and securely share accurate information about their patients' diabetic foot ulcers and healing rates.

Silhouette enables wound care and assessments to be made closer to the patients' homes and in some cases at their homes, reducing the number of follow-up appointments that need to take place in hospitals. The information that Silhouette provides, enables the rapid escalation and de-escalation of patients with diabetic foot ulcers to and from secondary care, and increases accuracy and objectivity of their assessments.

"This innovative service means patients can be seen and monitored much closer to home, outside of the often busy hospital environment. This is better for the patients and is also easing the pressure on our foot clinic at the hospital."

Professor Fran Game, Consultant Diabetologist, Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Townsville Hospital in North Queensland, Australia was the first in the state to use Silhouette as a telehealth tool for rural patients with diabetes. Patients who would otherwise have to travel considerable distances to access the care they need are now able to go the nearest town to have an assessment with Silhouette. The data collected is then securely shared with doctors' hours away in Townsville who can quickly assess and determine the best treatment for the patient.

Associate Professor Usman Malabu, the project lead, said that using Silhouette leads to better treatments for our isolated rural patients.

"The main issue is due to access, so using the technology, you'll screen the patients, and use it for early prevention of the ulcer itself."

Associate Professor Usman Malabu, James Cook University

Associate Professor Usman Malabu from James Cook University

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Improving Patient Engagement

Customer Stories

Canterbury
District Health Board
Te Poari Hauora ō Waitaha

Southern District
Health Board

Silhouette provides images and accurate wound measurements, making it easier to see even small changes over time. Stephen Percival, a Podiatrist from Christchurch Diabetes Centre says, "the deterioration and progress of wounds can be quite small, literally millimetres in size, so it's impossible to gauge with any accuracy the subtle changes in wound size without a measurable record." Patients become much more involved in their care and treatment when they can see their wound images at each appointment through the Silhouette system.

"The ulcers are right in the middle of the sole of my foot so normally they're difficult for me to see, but now Stephen can show me on his computer screen how they are shrinking and changing so I can really see what's going on. It works for me."
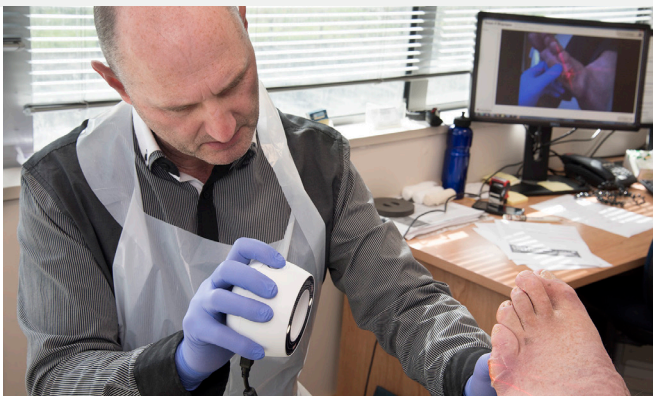
Patient Ralph McGuigan

Image: Podiatrist, Stephen Percival, Christchurch Diabetes Centre

A Dunedin diabetic foot clinic used the Silhouette system to help audit their practices with 30 patients. The data they collected with Silhouette enabled them to accurately document and track healing progress, which then enabled them to identify barriers to healing and form the basis for their care plan.

Their audit revealed that involving patients in tracking their own healing, empowered and motivated them to participate in their treatment plan. Some of the patient comments about using Silhouette included:

"I love being able to see the progress."
"It gave me hope."
"The graph and the photos it proves it."
"I knew when I was doing too much – the picture does not lie."
"Has helped me to manage my wound better and gain control."

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