

# A wound dressing shows its value: clinical and economic effects of a dressing regime change for primary and home care chronic wound management<sup>1</sup>

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## Problem

How to do more with less in primary care without sacrificing patient outcomes.

## Study aim

To investigate potential benefits of a change in dressing regime for chronic wound management in primary and home care settings.

## Background

As part of an initiative to optimise dressing usage in primary care facilities in Seville (Spain), a literature review identified Mepilex® Border Flex as the best for meeting published requirements for bordered foam dressings<sup>2</sup>. A variety of formulary-listed bordered foam dressings were in use at participating centres prior to the switch to Mepilex Border Flex.

## Methods

**37 patients** with chronic wounds (mostly Stage 2 pressure injuries and venous leg ulcers) that had not reduced in size by more than >40% to 50% in the previous month.

- A structured programme was provided for the study clinicians.
- Baseline formulary dressings were used for 4 weeks prior to the baseline visit, with historical data collected during the 7 days preceding the baseline visit.
- Baseline formulary dressings were switched to Mepilex Border Flex (in conjunction with standard of care) and used for 4 weeks, with an evaluation of usage during the 7 days preceding the final visit.

## Key results

### Primary outcome

Number of dressing changes decreased by

↓ **66%**  
from 3 to 1 per week\*

Median number of dressing changes in the 7 days before the baseline visit compared to the 7 days before the final visit.

\*Differences between baseline and final visit are statistically significant: Wilcoxon signed rank test 0.0000; sign test: 0.0000 (A non parametric statistical test comparing 2 related samples)

### Costs

↓ **44%** reduction in weekly dressing costs (a saving of 5.38 Euros/week per patient)

### Healing

|                                                                       |                                                                        |                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| ↓ <b>50%</b><br>reduction in wound area in 4 weeks in 75% of patients | ↓ <b>68.7%</b><br>reduction in wound area from baseline to final visit | <b>32%</b><br>wounds healed by final visit |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|

### Pain

Reduction in pain severity scores before and during dressing change, from baseline to final visit

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Before dressing change | 3.1 → 1.1 |
| During dressing change | 3.3 → 0.5 |

Assessment scores on a scale ranging from 0 (no pain) to 10 (worst pain imaginable)

### Safety data:

No dressing-related adverse events observed.

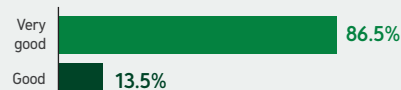
**100%** of HCPs would recommend Mepilex Border Flex

Overall performance rating of Mepilex Border Flex vs previously used formulary dressings



**100%** of patients would recommend Mepilex Border Flex

Overall satisfaction, final visit



## Conclusions

The introduction of a high-quality bordered foam dressing, supported by an educational programme for clinical staff, resulted in a **prolonged interval between dressing changes and an overall reduction in dressing-related costs.**

Clinical performance data suggest that this approach can also **positively impact wound outcomes.**

These findings highlight the potential benefit of dressing regime improvements in delivering value-based wound care.

**References:** 1. Roldan Valenzuela A, et al. A wound dressing shows its value: clinical and economic effects of a dressing regime change for primary and home care chronic wound management. Presented at: European Wound Management Association (EWMA) Conference; 2025 Mar 26–28; Barcelona, Spain. E-poster ID: ENG843. 2. Raepsaet C, et al. Clinical research on the use of bordered foam dressings in the treatment of complex wounds: a systematic review of reported outcomes and applied measurement instruments. J Tissue Viability. 2022;31(3):514–22.

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