

Wound Care Stakeholders

July 8, 2011

Scientific Resource Center, Oregon EPC
Mail code: BICC
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road
Portland, Oregon 97239-3098

Submitted Electronically

Re: AHRQ Publication No. 11-EHC044-EF - Engaging Stakeholders To Identify and Prioritize Future Research Needs

To Whom This May Concern:

On behalf of the Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders (“Alliance”), I am submitting the following comments in response to the AHRQ draft report entitled, “Engaging Stakeholders To Identify and Prioritize Future Research Needs”. I serve as the Executive Director of the Alliance, a 501 (c)(6) multidisciplinary trade association consisting of over 15 physician, clinical, provider, and patient organizations, whose mission is to promote quality care and patient access to wound care products and services. These comments were written with the advice of Alliance organizations that not only possess expert knowledge in complex acute and chronic wounds, but also in wound care research. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our comments.

As we reviewed the draft report, we had concerns that the title of this report is a bit misleading. The Alliance assumed that this report was seeking participation from stakeholders to comment on research needs identified by AHRQ. While we applaud the effort that went into identifying various stakeholders and developing methods to determine their priorities, we remain uncertain as to exactly which research needs were prioritized.

As you are aware, HHS has been seeking feedback around a framework for developing the National Quality Strategy, including: the identification of guiding principles and specific priorities and goals, strategies for stakeholder engagement, and defining the role states play. As such, the Alliance believed that AHRQ was moving forward and seeking research priorities/needs in this document.

One area that we would request that AHRQ incorporate in its priorities for research needs is wound care. Developing strong wound care research principles have been a driving force in the Alliance’s workplan. In fact, we created a multidisciplinary panel of 11 wound care experts entitled, “Panel On Wound Care Evidence-based Research”

(POWER™), from our participating organizations who defined a set of guidelines in the form of principles to provide direction to all stakeholders involved in clinical or comparative effectiveness research in wound care.

The POWER™ Panel generated a Preliminary Consensus Document consisting of 17 statements. A modified Delphi approach consisting of 2 web-based surveys was used to reach 90% consensus on the statements and involved over 100 multidisciplinary wound experts. The final 19 principles provide guidance for conducting and using wound care research and useful to developers of new products or interventions. The POWER™ Panel crafted a manuscript from these principles to address criteria for conducting methodologically sound randomized controlled clinical trials (RCTs) as well as address the importance and relative strength of non-RCT research in the wound care field.

Since this information should be educational to those who read AHRQ publication, we are asking advice if there is a vehicle within AHRQ publications in which this document would be relevant and can be published to inform their readers regarding wound care research. In addition, many different stakeholder groups similar to those represented in this document are involved in the area of wound care and hope to be involved in future AHRQ projects.

CONCLUSION

The Alliance appreciates the opportunity to provide AHRQ with our comments on the draft report. As stated earlier in our comments, due to our members' heavy research interest and activities, we would be pleased to serve as a resource to you now or in the future. If you have any questions, or would like further additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Marcia Nusgart R.Ph.
Executive Director

CC: Dr. Carolyn Clancy
Dr. Elise Berliner