RUT – REGISTER ULCER TREATMENT

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Aim: To implement a national quality register for hard-to-heal leg and foot ulcers.

Methods: The quality register RUT (Register Ulcer Treatment) has been used at Blekinge Wound Healing Center since its start 3.3.2003. It has during the years been improved to meet the demands of primary health care, where the majority of patients with hard-to-heal leg and foot ulcers are treated. There has been a close cooperation with EyeNet Sweden, one of three centres of competence in Sweden for national and international registers authorized by Salar, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions.

Results: The long term results (1986 to 2005) show reduced prevalence from 0.22% to 0.15% in the county and lowered costs for treatment per patient and week from 2.1 hours to 1.3 in the same period. Furthermore there was a dramatic reduction of costs for treatment of these patients with 1 million Euro from 1994 to 2005.

Conclusions: To optimize treatment of hard-to-heal leg and foot ulcers nationwide there is a need for a web-based quality register to compare care, needs, costs and outcomes in different regions, in primary/community care and hospital care. The register RUT seems to fulfil these demands, why it is now implemented in the whole country.