The Role of the WOC Nurse in Utilization Management

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Changes in health care reform are providing new opportunities for the WOC Nurse to expand into new practice roles. Health care organizations, insurers, and providers must become more efficient in the delivery of quality health care services. As experts in wound care with a keen awareness of evidence-based practice and financial implications of treatment, the WOC Nurse is in a unique position to assume a vital role in utilization management (UM). Utilization Management encompasses a diverse set of activities designed to influence the use of health care services and thereby constrain health care resource consumption.

Wound Etiology in Home Care

Data collected from review of OASIS and Plan of Care (485) documents over 6 months reveals the majority of wounds are unidentified. The second greatest volume of cases are pressure injuries followed by surgical wounds. NPWT data has also been collected which is mostly pressure injury and surgical wounds. In order to improve accuracy of data collection, more education on OASIS documentation of wound etiologies is needed at the home care agencies.

References


