

# Average Costs Related to the In-Patient Care of the Enterocutaneous Fistula

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## Background

Caring for patients with EC fistulas in the acute care setting is challenging due to the care time involved and supplies required. WOC nurses at UNC Hospitals frequently provide complex fistula management. The goal of this project was to quantify expenditures, related to supplies and WOC nursing time, to determine the average cost of inpatient care for an EC fistula.

## Data Collection

13\* Patients with EC fistulas were managed over a 3-month time period. WOC Nurse hours included:

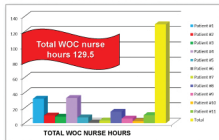
- Number of WOC nurse bedside encounters
- Duration of the bedside encounters
- Number of WOC nurses at each bedside encounter

Supplies Included:

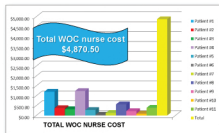
- Pouches and accessories
- Skin treatment products
- Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) and accessories

\* Final patient count was 11 due to patient circumstances

## Total WOC Nurse Time & Cost

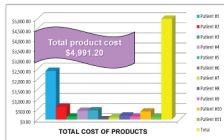


Based on duration and number of bedside encounters and number of WOC nurses at each encounter

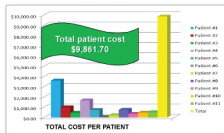


Based on average salary of WOC nurse in South Atlantic – 2012 WOC Nursing Salary and Productivity Survey

## Products and Supplies



Based on UNC Hospitals costs for each supply



Combined UNC Hospitals supply costs and WOC nurse cost

## Conclusion

The findings illustrate that the care of patients with EC fistulas is complex and costly. EC fistula management costs increase when WOC nursing time and expertise are required. NPWT also contributes significantly to overall cost compared to other management options.

Average patient cost \$1,644.00



Three WOC nurses at the bedside changing an NPWT fistula dressing

## Future Plans/Research

Future plans may include improving multi-disciplinary team involvement through care conferences and additional education. Research should include nutritional and pharmaceutical interventions to determine best practices for EC fistula management.