



Accelerate

Transforming wound
and lymphoedema care

A snapshot of our social impact

A short statement about how we are boldly
transforming wound, lymphoedema and
mobility outcomes



Introduction

Alison Hopkins - CEO



Alison Hopkins,
founder and CEO
of Accelerate

Accelerate exists to transform wound and lymphoedema care and improve the lives of the many people living with these

conditions. It's as simple as that.

Like many organisations, following the pandemic we have faced some significant challenges and have had to make drastic changes to the way we work, from offering online consultations to the development of innovative research programmes for our community.

But the one thing we haven't changed is the fact that Accelerate is on a mission!

Over the next few pages you can see how we plan to lead system level change so that people with wounds and lymphoedema can get the service they deserve wherever they live in the UK.

Our Vision

Our vision is for a world where access to effective, responsive and personalised local care for those with lymphoedema or wounds is a reality

It's a big statement to make, but one that we see as achievable.

Our Mission

Our mission is to show that the Accelerate Way will benefit people through bringing clinical expertise, empowerment, education and innovation

We will create system level change. We will work with existing organisations to catalyse this change.

We believe in profit for good, social impact and equity of access.



The wound care problem we tackle

Managing wounds in the UK is costing the NHS a huge amount of money. But despite this cost, millions of people are suffering with these debilitating and devastating conditions, and that number is increasing significantly each year.

For many people, accessing good care for their condition is extremely difficult - services are not equitable and it can depend on where you live as to the care you receive for your illness.

There is a huge shortage of skilled doctors and nurses and investment in these services is little or none - there is simply no money available.

Added to this is the lack of a shared care approach for complex wound care, lymphoedema and leg ulcers which results in slower healing rates and an escalation in the severity of these conditions for patients.

£8.3 billion

The annual cost to the NHS of managing wounds - almost as much as the combined cost of managing osteo and rheumatoid arthritis conditions (£10.2 billion).

48%

The increase in the number of wounds since 2013.

1 million

The number of people in the UK with a lower limb ulcer – that's **2%** of all adults.

560,000

The amount of these that are venous leg ulcers.

£3,700

The cost per patient per year of managing an unhealed leg ulcer - more than 2.5 times the cost of managing a healed leg ulcer.

10

NHS England has estimated that sub-optimal care of leg ulcers can cost up to ten times more than correctly managed care.

47%

The number of patients healing at 12 months (NWCSP 2020) with less than a quarter of these patients receiving appropriate assessment and treatment (CQUIN 2022/23).

2019-21

The period of time when leg ulcer healing rates decreased, compression therapy use decreased and sepsis and amputations increased (Guest 2022).

The lymphoedema problem we tackle

There are estimated to be almost 450,000 people in the UK with lymphoedema. It is more common than the combined number of people with Multiple Sclerosis, Motor Neurone Disease, HIV and Parkinson's Disease.

A national audit showed significant, disturbing, and discriminatory variances in access to lymphoedema care based on the underlying cause ie if it is linked to cancer, the part of the body which is swollen, and postcode of the patient. Some areas have no commissioned services, others only provide care for cancer survivors, and others provide care on an expensive case by case basis utilising non-NHS resources.

6 in 1,000

The number of people who will have lymphoedema across the population.

30%

The percentage of lymphoedema patients who will have an episode of cellulitis prior to diagnosis.

Patients with lymphoedema have a significant risk of developing this skin infection and incurring hospitalisation. Research shows approximately 30% will have had an episode of cellulitis prior to diagnosis.

£15.48 million

The amount of money that is spent annually on prescribed compression garments for lymphoedema management.

£3 million

The amount of money that the NHS may be able save in waste if clinicians were given appropriate knowledge (and specialist input) in the correct prescription of lymphoedema garments. This lack of knowledge leads to significant mistakes, and hence harm and consequential waste. A reduction of 20% in this waste would save the NHS over £3 million per annum.

56.7%

The percentage of patients in the district nursing caseload who had chronic oedema - reported in a 2019 UK community nursing services study.

References

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The Accelerate Way

How we are fulfilling our mission & vision

Academy

We are building confidence and competence in effective wound and lymphoedema management through independent, high quality, accessible education.

Health

We are providing advanced bespoke and extended scope clinical services for the treatment of wounds and lymphoedema to enable truly personalised, multidisciplinary care.



Click!

Click is our innovative online system for ordering dressings. It uses our clinical expertise to analyse data on dressing spend with the aim of identifying potential ways of releasing savings to reinvest into local wound services.

Research

We are leading and participating in research trials within clinical practice that is pivotal to improving lives of our patients by finding new and effective treatments that can enhance well-being and quality of life.

How are we funded?

Key Points

A Community Interest Company (CIC) is a special type of limited company which exists to benefit the community rather than private shareholders and is regulated by The Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies.

We must file our annual accounts each year together with an annual community interest report which says how the CIC has benefited the community and how it has involved its members in its activities.

We are commissioned to deliver services which provides us with different income streams:

- Our Centre for Excellence and Innovation clinic services
- Our community lower limb clinics
- Using our expertise in consultancy and needs analysis work
- Research
- Accelerate Academy courses
- Shared care programmes with our NHS partners
- Non contracted activities and E-consultations

These income streams give us funding to cover our costs but also invest back into our vision of creating a world where access to effective, responsive and personalised local care for those with lymphoedema or wounds is a reality.

We have also made considerable investment in our community with things like

- Free Accelerate Academy places and sponsored events
- The Rosetta Life programme
- The Legs Matter campaign
- Gait analysis capabilities
- Our move to St Joseph's Hospice and commitment to ongoing improvements within our Centre

We are relentless in our drive to ensure that our income is used to create the system change that will make a dramatic difference to the lives of people living with wounds and lymphoedema and to the organisations delivering that care.



1. Accelerate Academy

Education in wound and lymphoedema

Georgina Ritchie - Director



The Academy is one of the many things at Accelerate that I am passionate about. At Accelerate, education matters to us – a lot.

It is a vital part of our work. It

enables transformations in local services, healing rates and patient experience.

We want to work with learners nationally, to build confidence and competence in effective wound and lymphoedema management and we believe that independent, high-quality education is key to developing this.

The Academy aims to effect system change by questioning the status quo and working with practitioners across the health service to develop the courage to use compression therapy effectively.

In 2022-23, Accelerate Academy gave away £10,000 of free education to celebrate our 10th Anniversary.

In the coming year we want to match this again, but also target learners from clinical areas such as nursing and residential homes and community pharmacy.

“ My vision for the Accelerate Academy is to challenge and change lower limb practice nationally. We know that mild compression is overused, we know that time to heal is too slow and that re-occurrence rates are too high for lower limb wounds.

The numbers

20

The number of courses we have held at the Academy 2021 -2022.

261

The number of learners that have passed through the Academy 2021 - 2022.

29

The number of courses we have held at the Academy so far 2022 - 2023.

509

The number of learners that have passed through the Academy so far 2022 - 2023.

6

The number of countries that have attended an Accelerate Academy course.

£10,000

The amount of free education we offered so far 2022 - 2023.



“ We don't see our Academy as 'attending a course' we see it as joining a community of practice that will contribute to system level change.

Our E-learning platform is influencing change nationally and more with attendees from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Wight, Germany and America.

“

Leg Ulcer Specialist Nurse
London

I still haven't touched the ground since attending my course. I promise you that you will come away feeling empowered and ready to change your practice and to develop your own skills in lower limb ulceration.

“

Prison Nurse
Cambridgeshire

I tried one of the techniques you taught on your lower limb course on a man with wet legs. We'd been struggling for 11 weeks; we tried your technique and he dried up overnight.

“

Service Lead
Dorset

Accelerate Academy delivered a bespoke course to the 12 practitioners who work in our lower limb service, I know this has improved healing rates across the service .

2. Accelerate Health

Clinical care for wound and lymphoedema

Catriona O'Neill - Director



Accelerate Health consists of an amazing interdisciplinary team of expert clinicians in wound, lymphoedema and bio-mechanics.

We advocate equitable access to evidence-based treatments and anticipatory care and continue our focus to enhance the system pathway across North East London, whilst also working to improve care and treatment at a national level.

Our personalised approach to clinical delivery transforms the lives of patients, community and workforce.

Our real passion and ambition is to support the wider system, strengthening the patient pathway for those with lower limb wounds and lymphoedema nationally.

Although these condition affect a significant percentage of individuals across our population, the management of wound care and lymphoedema does not necessarily require everyone to access specialist input.

Which is why a system pathway within healthcare is key. Prompt management in all cases is proven to reduce costs across the wider health economy.

“ My vision for Accelerate Health is to enhance the patient experience and demonstrate value-based care. It’s vital that people receive the right care at the right time, and without delay to avoid harm.

The numbers

3,000

The number of active patients we see at our Centre of Excellence.

10,500

The number of appointments at our Centre of Excellence.

0

Formal complaints.

1,117

The number of new patients we have seen over the last year from our Centre of Excellence.

33%

The number of our patients with venous leg ulcers healed at 6 weeks.

62%

The number of our patients with venous leg ulcers healed at 12 weeks.

95%

Of patients with venous leg ulcers healed at 24 weeks.



“ My vision for our community is to have a seamless pathway across their health system that addresses the health inequalities related to wound care and lymphoedema.

“

Excellent, superb, efficient, human, sincere, attentive and a joy to visit everyone. Thank you.

“

Accelerate & the wellness programme has certainly given me more self-worth and I now feel more relaxed and positive about my future. I am also planning to visit my sister in Australia after nearly 3 years!

“

Look how I can move my ankles now, I couldn't wait to show you! Do you remember how stiff they were before?

“

You healed my mum and it's a miracle, for that we all love you.

“

Thanks to the nurses for giving me a positive attitude to healing my legs.

“

The clinical support I get here has given me the confidence that I can manage this problem. Thank you.

3. Accelerate Click! Off-prescription ordering service

Alpana Malde - Director



Our expert team at Accelerate have developed a unique and trusted Dressings Optimisation Scheme (DOS) and an intelligent product ordering system called

To date, we have implemented this in six London areas and savings in excess of £3m have been made. We are confident that DOS and Click can be adopted across other areas of the UK to save the NHS more money.

“ My vision is that by using Click! for dressings optimisation, clinician's time is released and access is enabled to the correct dressings at the point of delivery, saving money from reduction in waste and adherence to formulary enabling reinvestment in patient care.

Click! They enable clinicians and Medicines Management colleagues in the NHS to:

- Reduce waste
- Save money
- Reduce variation across their patch

We have a highly experienced team who use their extensive wound care expertise to demonstrate sustainable savings despite population increases.

The numbers

£450K

Total savings against wound care budget in 7 years 2015-22.

892

Users of Accelerate Click! 2021 - 2022.

398

Registered locations set up as points of delivery 2021 - 2022.

£15,000

The surplus that was identified through the dressings optimisation scheme in one particular area.

The money was used to fund education in partnership with our Accelerate Academy to offer training to practitioners in that area to improve practice.

20%

Savings. The spend per head of population £2.05 pre scheme 2014/2015.

The spend per head of population 2021-2022 - £1.64 despite inflation and increase in population size of 9% during this time = 20% savings.



“ Using Click! - our off-prescription ordering service - enables you to deliver truly sustainable annual savings on your wound care spend, reduces variation and allows you to implement controls locally with our Dressing Optimisation Scheme.

“

Lower Limb Service
Co-ordinator
Havering

I would recommend Click – my dressing orders arrive on time and the customer service team respond promptly.

“

Practice Nurse
East London

The Click interface looks super. It is so easy to find stuff I need and using it has sped up the delivery process. It's made my life a lot easier.

“

District Nurse Lead
North East London

Using Click helps me monitor dressing use, like silvers, and this can help improve patient care. I prefer using Click to meeting reps in clinic.

4. Accelerate Research

Clinical research

Karen Staines - Director



Research within clinical practice is pivotal to improving the lives of our patients by finding new and effective treatments that can enhance well-being and

quality of life.

Affording the opportunity to our patients to take part in research gives them the potential to access treatments that otherwise might not be available.

This also brings an opportunity to have greater involvement in decision making regarding treatments. The critique they bring also influences the outcomes of the study or evaluation.

Evidence shows that where there is a strong record of research in NHS organisations it has shown improved outcomes for patients.

CQC has included research within 'Well Led Framework' and has recognised that in the NHS, research activity is a key component of patient care - it is a sign of a progressive organisation that is keen to develop in their field

“ My vision is to make research everyone’s business, give staff the opportunity to grow in new skills and our patients to have access to an intervention that can enhance their well-being.

I plan to extend our scope to include lymphoedema patients and study the influence that gait and biomechanics have on our core patient population.

The numbers

55

The number of patients we have accepted into our clinical trials.

3

The current number of Randomised Clinical Trials we are recruiting for.

100%

The number of those that responded to our survey reported either:

- Improved mobility
- Reduced pain
- Reduced or healed wound

93%

The number of patients who found that being involved in a clinical trial was a positive experience.



“ We aim to access grant funding to support internal research. Any profit generated from our sponsored research will be used to further our knowledge and support our patients to access new and innovative treatments.

“


Before being accepted by Accelerate, I was suffering with a bad ulcer on my right leg and my left leg was swollen. Tried to get help for left leg and GP and Vascular were sure they could not help - DN team advised me of Accelerate who have healed both my left and right leg.

“

Excellent care healed my ulcers and care and attention when I was feeling depressed and anxious. Thanks a million, to you all.

“

The team have been professional in all of their work, The result has been very good in healing my ulcer which was very bad, well done!



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