

PR 066/14/RB

1 October 2014



Sumed proud to support innovative research to help improve patient outcomes by reducing pressure damage

Peninsula Community Health has been awarded a £50k grant from the NHS Regional Innovation Fund (RIF) and will be working collaboratively with University of Plymouth, NHS England and Sumed International (UK) LTD.

The grant will be used to further work with an innovative patient pressure monitoring system called Foresite PT manufactured by Xsensor Technology Corp and supplied in the UK and Ireland by Sumed International (UK) Ltd.

The Foresite PT System continually monitors a patient's body surface pressures through a special mattress cover that is embedded with thousands of sensor cells. Data provided gives clinicians, patients and carers visual easy-to-understand information clearly identifying areas of the body that have been under sustained pressure and tracking the time since the last reposition enabling them to achieve the highest level of pressure redistribution when repositioning a patient.

The research will look at the question; "Can pressure monitoring facilitate patients and carers in their decision making with regards to repositioning and pressure ulcer prevention?" and initial research was presented in August at the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel Meeting, Stockholm and future work has been accepted at the Wounds UK Conference, Harrogate in November 2014.

The objectives of the work funded by the grant are to: reduce community hospital acquired pressure ulcers and also those

acquired whilst patients are at home, to understand changes that occur when a patient remains in one position before being turned, to identify positions which are less compatible with healing, to assess the comfort from the patient's perspective, and to determine, for the first time, the length of time that patients are out of bed, sitting in a chair and not having pressure monitored.

The grant will be used to enable Nicci Kimpton, Tissue Viability Lead Practitioner for Peninsula Community Health, to focus part of her time on the new research, purchase equipment, provide statistical support from Plymouth University, and enable collaboration from Professor Bridie Kent at Plymouth University. The research will be completed by the end of March 2015 after which it is hoped that the work will be continued.

Nicci commented: "This is a fantastic opportunity for Peninsula Community Health to be involved in this innovative project which will have a really positive impact on patient outcomes. We are pleased to be able to work closely with Plymouth University and Sumed to be able to look more closely at this research and hopefully inform practice across the country whilst achieving the best for patients."

Graham Collyer, Chairman of Sumed (UK) Ltd commented "we have been working with Nicci for more than a year now and are delighted that as a result of this funding Nicci and her team can concentrate on this important work"

END

Notes for editors:

- Peninsula Community Health, a not-for-profit community interest company, is the provider of community-based health services to adults in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and provides NHS services through Community Hospitals, Minor Injuries Units and Community Nursing Teams.
- Sumed is a growing company based in Glossop, Derbyshire focussed on the manufacture and distribution of products designed for the healing and maintenance of healthy skin
- For further information on Peninsula Health visit www.peninsulacommunityhealth.co.uk
- For a full list of the winners visit the NHS England website <http://www.england.nhs.uk/> or the innovation web portal <https://nhs-ihw-colab.induct.no>
- For further information on the Foresite PT System visit <http://www.xsensor.com/Foresite>
- For further information on Sumed International (uk) Ltd visit www.sumed.co.uk