

# Wound Hygiene Challenge Quality Improvement Program ANZ

**February 14<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**Australian Wound and Skin Alliance (AWSA)**

**Industry abstract presentation**

**SC-73685-AUS-ENG-v1**

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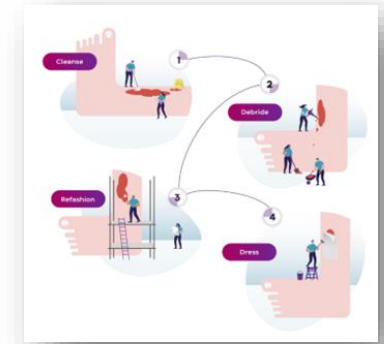
# **The future initiative**

**Wound Hygiene Challenge (WHC)**

**Quality Improvement Program (QIP) ANZ**

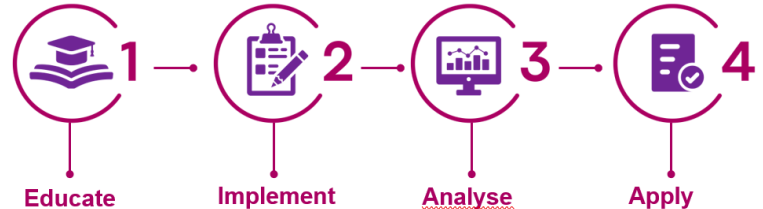
# The Wound Hygiene Challenge

- Despite advances in wound dressings and best practice, **the number of hard-to-heal wounds is increasing**, contributing to increased costs and **health system burdens**
- **The Wound Hygiene Challenge<sup>1</sup> (WHC)** is a Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) intended to bring about **positive change** in the management of hard-to-heal wounds through:
  - The implementation of
    - A **4-step biofilm-based protocol-of care**, termed **Wound Hygiene**
    - The clinical effectiveness of **AQUACEL® Ag+ Extra dressing at Step 4**



# How will the QIP be implemented?

- Initiated through a **structured education programme**
- Based on **implementation of the 4-step Wound Hygiene protocol of care**; to eliminate variation and standardise clinical practice **over a 4-week period**
- Designed to enable healthcare professionals and providers to assess and measure **the impact of implementing the programme with Aquacel® Ag+ Extra dressings**
- To demonstrate **value-based healthcare** to bring about positive change in the management of hard-to-heal wounds
- Facilitate publication of **ANZ- based real-world evidence**



# **The clinical relevance**

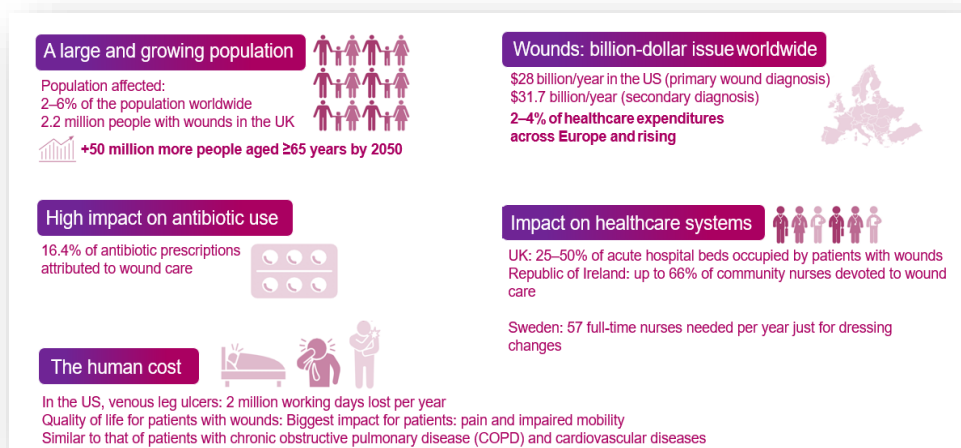
## **Wound Hygiene Challenge (WHC)**

### **Quality Improvement Program (QIP) ANZ**

# The Problem: Global wound care in crisis<sup>1</sup>

## The Facts:

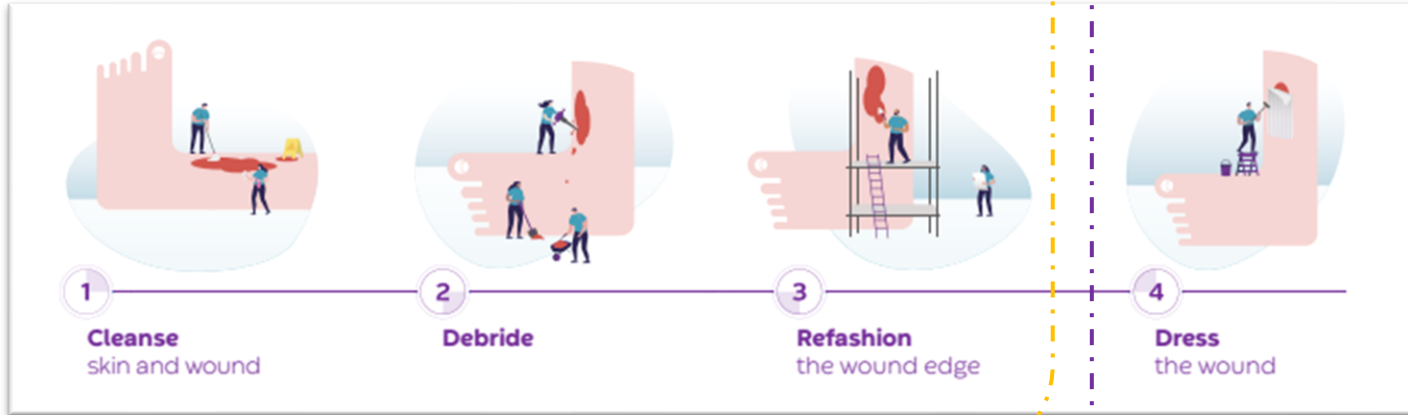
- **Non-healing wounds are debilitating** with high morbidity and mortality
- **Increased complexity** of the wound care ecosystem due to:
  - increasing costs (direct and in-direct)
  - increasing aging population
  - increasing prevalence of comorbidities (e.g., diabetes; obesity)
  - increasing bacterial resistance to antimicrobials



Patients with hard to heal wounds are often managed by a **wide variety of HCPs**, with **different experience and views** on treatment strategies, across **many clinical settings**.

# Wound Hygiene Challenge [WHC] : Protocol

As per local guidelines and scope of practice



The protocol is designed to **facilitate minimal change to existing practices** and materials, by encouraging the use of whichever cleansers and debridement methods are the current standard of practice, with the **addition of Aquacel<sup>®</sup> Ag+ Extra at step 4.**



# **The evidence underpinning the Wound Hygiene Challenge (WHC) Quality Improvement Program (QIP) ANZ**

# Wound Hygiene evidence

Value-based healthcare

Education – Engagement - Evidence

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024



Defying hard-to-heal wounds with an early antibiofilm intervention strategy: "wound hygiene"

Abstract text for Ref: 1

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Ref: 2



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Ref: 4



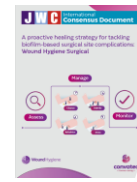
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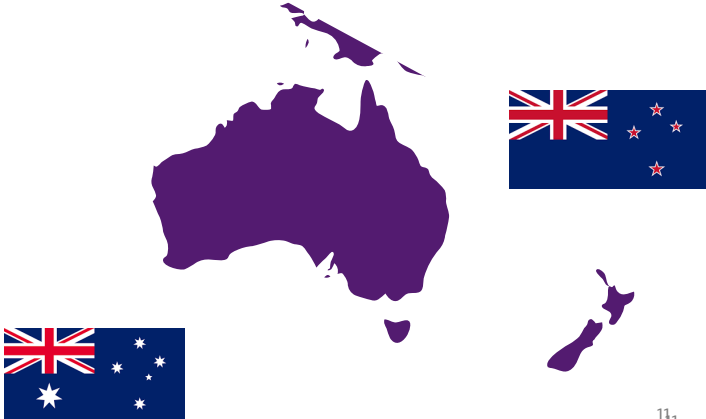
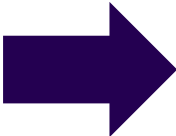
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Ref: 10

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# Why replicate?



# Future clinical applications

Wound Hygiene Challenge (WHC)

Quality Improvement Program (QIP) ANZ

# To tackle the core problem...

- This is an innovative approach to **revolutionise the way wounds are treated**

## Implementation of the protocol will:

- Drive change in the language / terminology
- Drive change in the treatment protocol
- Drive change in the culture
- **Drive change in the outcome!**

**Wound care in crisis:  
...let's stop managing and start healing wounds**

# The Global Movement!



Wound Hygiene



# Thank you

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