

2016/2017 Summer Studentship Project Application Form

Send to: Research Office, University of Otago Christchurch, PO Box 4345, Christchurch, by 5pm on **4 July 2016**

Supervisor Information (First named supervisor will be the contact):

First Supervisor's Name and Title: Dr Philippa Seaton, Senior Lecturer, HOD

Department - UOC &/or CDHB (if applicable): Centre for Postgraduate Nursing Studies & Nurse Maude

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Co-Supervisors Name and Title(s): Maree Steel, MHealSc, PGDip (TertTch) RN, Lecturer, Dr B Burrell BA MA PhD RN, Gill Coe BA, Sheree East RGONAON RM, PG Dip HealSci

Research Category (Choose one category only – to be used for judging the students' presentations):

Clinical

Laboratory

Community v

Project Title (20 words MAXIMUM):

Nursing management and prevalence of wounds in one community nursing service in Christchurch: a retrospective study of patient records.

Project Description:

Project title (20 words): Nursing management and prevalence of wounds in one community nursing service in Christchurch: a retrospective study of patient records.

Introduction:

Changing developments in the Canterbury District Health Board's models of community care, and evolving integration with NGO providers, such as Nurse Maude, have led to increased demands for the provision of wound care in the community setting in recent years. Nurse Maude Association offers care co-ordination, home support and nursing services in communities and inpatient care in its hospital and hospice. The organisation provides a wound care clinic in the community in Christchurch and a home visiting district nursing service treating wounds. This project is informed by a study undertaken in Ireland (O'Brien et al. 2016). Our setting differs in that the participants will be from the one geographical area within the city of Christchurch.

Approaches to wound care are often inconsistent and therefore outcomes can be variable. Gaining knowledge of the local situation will inform future decisions on wound care services.

The project is a collaboration between the Centre for Postgraduate Nursing Studies and an important and long standing nursing organization in Canterbury - the Nurse Maude Association.

Aim:

This study aims to identify the point prevalence and management of wounds by the Nurse Maude services during one week (to be selected) in 2016. Information on the following is sought: 1) The number and characteristics of patients with wounds, 2) the types of wounds being treated, 3) dressing use and 4) frequency of dressing change and other indicators of clinical practice. Prevalence will be estimated, management of wounds described and recommendations for practice made on the basis of the findings.

Possible impact (in lay terms):

Studying the local prevalence and patterns of wounds and wound management will identify needs for training resourcing and ensure care delivery is efficient and cost-effective.

Method:

The study is a cross sectional survey of approximately 500 wounds (such as leg ulcers, chronic wounds, pressure ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers) and treatment approaches during one week in August 2016 collected retrospectively from patient notes.

Data collection and analysis:

Data collection will take place within the 10 week Summer Studentship November 2016 to January 2017, and use the validated instrument (Vowden, Vowden et al. 2009) based on a retrospective sample. Data will be entered and analysed using SPSS. Point prevalence will be calculated as the number of individuals with wounds, divided by the number of individuals in the population during the data collection period. Resource impact will be calculated as the number of wounds, frequency and type of dressing changes, use of specific interventions for wound management, and the nurse time involved.

The characteristics of the population will be described. Types of wounds will be identified (pressure ulcers via the EPUAP and NPUAP grading systems) and presented in percentages for wound infections and dressing type, and nurse time will be calculated and the mean established for performing dressings and travel time. The UOC biostatistician will be consulted on analysis.

Ethical approval will be sought from the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee (Health) and the Nurse Maude Ethics Committee. All data will be de-identified and coded for anonymity and the analysis. Data will be stored securely according to the University of Otago and Nurse Maude policies on data storage and protection.