



More than skin deep: Development of a Paediatric Burns Long Term Case Meeting

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Background

The Multidisciplinary Burns team approach to caring for our patients is well established. Holding weekly clinical meetings and individual case meetings for our patients is embedded into our routine.

This continued after initial discharge however once patients entered into a more long term follow up stage they were seen in our very busy burns scar clinic. This clinic was a combination of newly healed smaller burns to the larger burns requiring scar reconstruction.

It was felt that we were doing a disservice to a small cohort of the more complex major burns patients where there was limited time to discuss all aspects of their progress. This led to the development and commencement of a Burns Long Term Case Meeting where there would be an annual discussion of all aspects of their progress.

This would include:

- **Growth and Development**
- **Nutrition**
- **Mobility and function**
- **Psychosocial wellbeing**
- **Schooling**
- **Dental**
- **Surgical reconstruction planning**



Process

- 10 of the more complex major burns patients were identified
- Set up quarterly hour long meetings where all members of the Multi Disciplinary team were available
- 2 – 3 patients were to be discussed at each meeting
- Meeting request sent with patient schedule Templates were developed for care giver/parents letters and pre-meeting checklist
- Clinic OPD Templates developed to capture activity for funding

Pre – Meeting Planning

- 6-8 weeks prior to each meeting letters are sent to care givers/parents
- Case notes reviewed identifying involved teams (particularly teams outside the immediate Burns Team)
- Requests sent to provide an update to the meeting
- Recent photos taken by Clinical Photography
- Patients reviewed if required
- Burns fellow prepared PP presentations for each patient.

Meeting

- Burns Fellow presents each patient
- All teams provided an update
- Action list compiled
- Surgical planning discussed

Post Meeting

- Case note report made
- Letter to care giver/parent outlining outcome/plan

Conclusion

The WCH Burns Service has held 3 Case Meetings to date. To have the opportunity to holistically discuss a patients progress has proven to be beneficial. A formal evaluation will occur next year.

As we know, our paediatric patient's journey is a long one and so much **more than skin deep.**