



Wound Stories

Diabetic
Foot Ulcer

Judith & Gemma

#WoundStories



Jemma
Nurse



You can tell a lot by the patient's pain what type of wound it is. If it's really painful or if it's a change in pain that could be a sign of an infection. Some patients don't have any pain. Others, you can't even take a dressing off them with them screaming, because it's so painful. At the same time, the older generation is quite tough. Most of them won't come here and just say, 'I'm in pain'. You have to really watch for the cues.

I would say the wetter wounds are the most challenging ones for us. Because they require longer appointments. And they might not get the proper treatment needed during the week when the patients can't come here. If the patients are not housebound, they don't fall under the community nurses. Any many of them can't afford going to the surgeries for treatment two to three times a week because they would need to go by taxi.

As a nurse I guess you always wish that you could do more for your patients. We wouldn't be nurses if we didn't feel we could always do better by our patients. That's when we get passionate, angry, and upset. When we feel like we can't do our job. Generally, I do think we are recognised for what we can do and what we can achieve. But then again, we're nurses - and we'd always like to achieve more."

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Judith
Patient

I've had problems with foot ulcers for several years and I've even had to go into hospital a couple of times to have intravenous antibiotics. It's a nuisance, but I've started to get used to it.

If I got my problems sorted, me and my husband would take up travelling in our motorhome. We've had it for 20 years and normally we'd spend our winters in the warm - Spain or Portugal. I have a daughter who lives in France who I would love to visit as well. But at the moment, I don't dare to go. If I get a problem with my foot, it's not quite so easy when you're in a foreign country.

Having these problems really limits my mobility and stops me from doing as much as I would like to. Still, I have been hesitant to accepting a mobility scooter. It just felt like: 'a mobility scooter', well that's me on a downward slope'. But finally, I gave in to my husband's nagging. I don't use it locally, at home. But if we go away, I take it, so that we can get out a bit more. You adjust your mindset I suppose. Being an invalid, it creeps up on you."

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