



Ontario  
Woundcare  
Interest Group

Honorable Christine Elliot  
Minister of Health  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
Hepburn Block  
10th Floor  
80 Grosvenor St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

Dear Minister Elliot:

Health Quality Ontario (HQQ) has completed its review of, developed health quality standards for, and recommended to you that the Ontario government provide funds for medical grade compression stocking to reduce recurrence of venous leg ulcers in Ontario. We are writing to ask that you approve the recommendations at your earliest opportunity.

Every Ontarian deserves access to quality, efficient, and sustainable healthcare. In Ontario, the prevalence of active lower limb ulcers in people over the age of 25 years is estimated to be 1.8 per 1,000 people. OTHAC estimates that 0.65 per 1,000 people in Ontario over the age of 25 years have *active venous leg ulcers*. Recurrence is a major concern in people who have been successfully treated for venous leg ulcers owing to the underlying chronic venous insufficiency.

Medical-grade graduated compression stockings have been demonstrated in the literature to reduce the recurrence rates in persons with venous insufficiency disease. Health Quality Ontario has developed health quality standards for venous leg ulcers. OHTAC has completed its review and can be found at:

Health Quality Ontario. Compression stockings for the prevention of venous leg ulcer recurrence: a health technology assessment. Ont Health Technol Assess Ser [Internet]. 2019 Feb;19(2):1–86. Available from: <http://www.hqontario.ca/evidence-to-improve-care/journal-ontario-health-technology-assessment-series>

To date, compression stockings have not been routinely publicly funded in Ontario for prevention of recurrence of venous leg ulcers. While there is partial funding through extended health insurance for some, most of the people who require these stockings are over the age of 65 or working in occupations where health benefits are not available.

People with venous disease suffer decreased quality of life, including pain, isolation and frequent health care visits. Although our health care system responds to those who need active care for ulceration, we fail to provide the care necessary to prevent these ulcers from recurring. The cost



Ontario  
Woundcare  
Interest Group

of one pair of medical grade stockings is about \$100. The cost of home care for an average 12 weeks of care is far greater than this.

We at the Ontario Woundcare Interest Group (ONTWIG) have worked tirelessly with your agencies to reach this stage and await your approval. We urge you to support the recommendation from OTHAC to fund medical grade stockings in to prevent recurrence of venous leg ulcers in Ontario, and in so doing reduce the ongoing costs of healthcare within the province.

Respectfully,

XXXX