



How community teams at Livewell Southwest deployed a digital solution to solve the wound data challenge

Overview

Almost four million people in the United Kingdom have chronic wounds that take months or even years to heal, taking a heavy toll on the people who suffer from them and on the clinicians treating them. A primary obstacle facing nurses and wound care practitioners is a lack of data—the standardised measurements, records and insights that can inform care plans. But the tools at their disposal are often rudimentary and subjective, leading to inconsistent measurements and impeding clinical processes and decision making.

Minuteful for Wound, Healthy.io's digital wound management solution, enables standardised

measurement and documentation of wounds, and monitoring over time. With reliable data at their fingertips, clinicians can quickly identify deteriorating wounds, optimise care plans and enhance wound management processes.

Livewell Southwest is the first UK community health services provider to roll-out Minuteful for Wound at scale, with over 200 staff adopting the solution including District Nurses, Tissue Viability Nurses and Podiatrists. With Minuteful for Wound, Livewell's clinicians are now able to:



Quickly capture accurate, standardised images and measurements of wounds using a smartphone app and two stickers.



Gain full visibility of the status of wounds across teams and the entire organisation using insightful dashboards tailored to their specific needs, and flag deteriorating wounds for specialist review and early intervention.



Optimise the clinical skill mix and allocate resources more appropriately, whilst ensuring continuity of care.

The Challenge

Livewell Southwest provides NHS community healthcare services in Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon, including some of the highest areas of deprivation in the country. It serves 330,000 people, over 5,000 of whom suffer from chronic wounds. Many of those patients are housebound and treated at home by district nurses.

Livewell's wound care clinicians identified the need for standardised measurement and documentation of wounds, to support informed clinical decision-making and staff upskilling. They required full wound status visibility across the organisation that would improve care processes and allow them to track the impact of transformational changes such as the introduction of the NWCSP lower limb pathway. Such a solution would address several challenges facing the organisation.

1

Lack of standardisation

Livewell staff found that their use of paper rulers for wound assessments was resulting in significant unwarranted variability in measurements.

2

No access to organisational wound data

Livewell needed a more comprehensive and compatible central management system for wound data to better design care plans, support specialist consultations, and inform decision making at the point of care.

3

Lack of continuity

Due to staffing constraints, each patient is seen by multiple staff members—sometimes between four and ten over a given month—thus impairing continuity of care and hindering the ability to identify wound stagnation.

The Solution

Livewell Southwest decided to initiate a digital transformation project for wound care, and partnered with Healthy.io to deploy Minute4U for Wound, a digital wound management solution. Now, clinicians and patients alike benefit from standardised digital measurements, the ability to track wounds over time and consult with experts when necessary with immediate effect on care plans. Here's how it works:



Clinician scans the wound using a smartphone and two colour calibration stickers.



The app uses cutting-edge AI technology to capture a full 3D model of the wound, allowing for standardised assessment, fully aligned with clinical guidelines, including measurement, location, and tissue distribution.



The data is uploaded to a dedicated web portal where it can be viewed by other members of staff and integrated with medical records.



Livewell clinicians visiting a specific patient on the team caseload for the first time can prepare by viewing the record of previous visits using the app or portal—including a series of photos showing the wound’s progress over time. The same records can also be shared and discussed with other staff members working in different locations. This allows for optimisation of the staff skill mix: non-registered staff can assume responsibility for day-to-day care, whilst registered staff members who are authorised to make changes to care plans can review the detailed records and oversee the care plan without having to visit the patient.

Outcomes

Teams across Livewell Southwest are now using MinuteFul for Wound to treat people with wounds, and have seen substantial impact.

Improved documentation

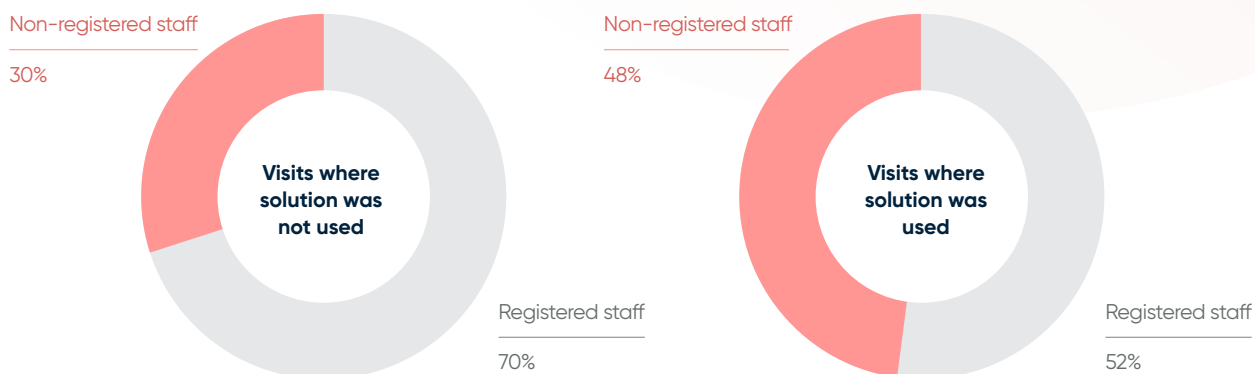
Standardised wound imagery and data collection help streamline assessments, reduce the risk of human error and support objective clinical decision making. The quick, automated process reduces documentation time, allowing nurses to devote more time to direct care. The resulting data and imagery are accessible via a secure dedicated portal.

Patient engagement

Patients often find it difficult to tell whether or not their wound is healing. With MinuteFul for Wound, clinicians can share engaging visual “time-lapse” records of each wound’s progress, offering patients an unmediated look at the healing process that has been shown to boost their engagement and adherence to care plans.

Optimised skill mixing

Non-registered staff can help to manage wounds under the remote guidance of expert clinicians, allowing for enhanced collaboration and upskilling junior staff, while ensuring continuity of care. Skill mixing eases the burden on senior staff while empowering junior nurses to provide quality care under specialist supervision.



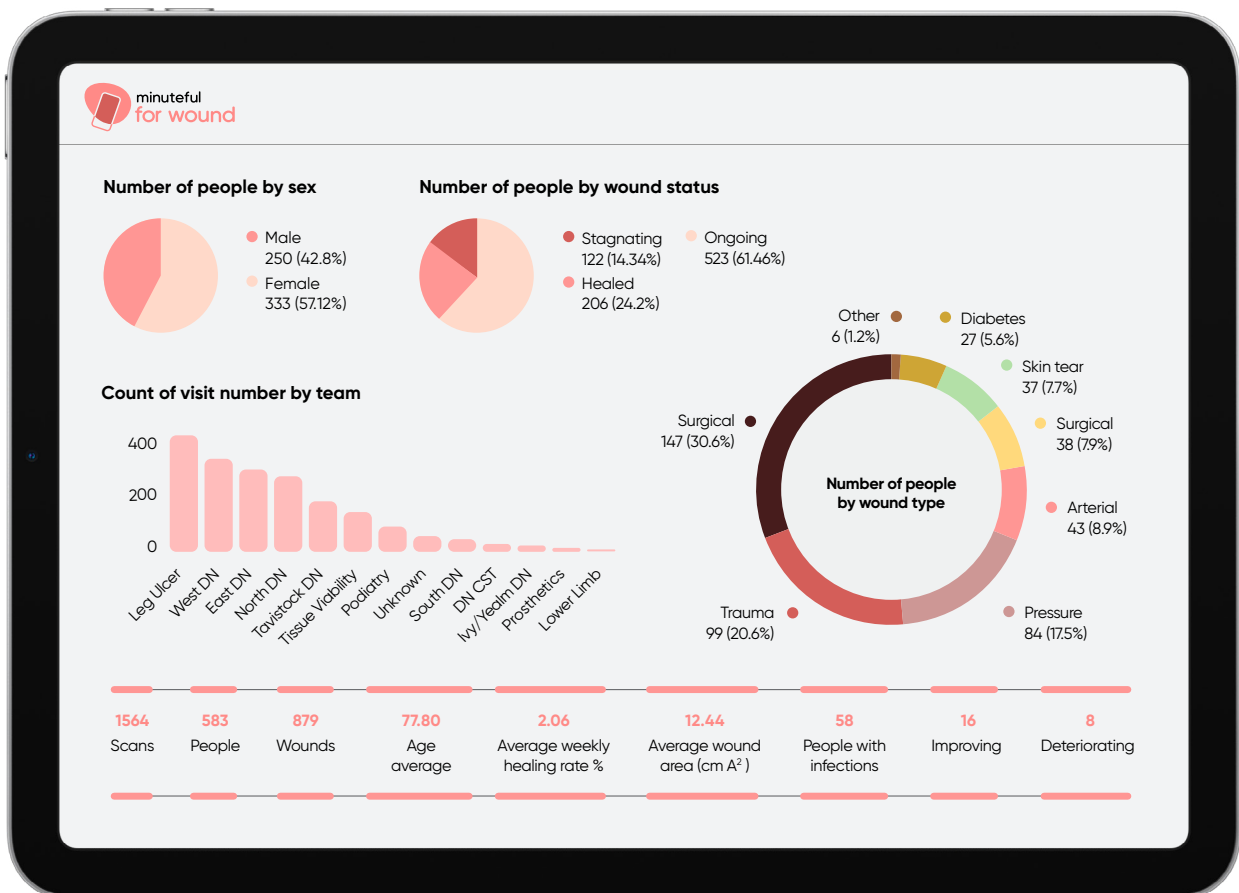
Livewell staff saw an improvement in the clinical skill mix following the solution’s implementation: When the solution was not used, 70% of visits were by registered staff. When the solution was used, as low as 52% of visits were by registered staff.

This skill mix optimisation is projected to result in savings of £162 per chronic wound patient.¹

1. Based on data from Guest JF, Fuller GW, Vowden P. Cohort study evaluating the burden of wounds to the UK’s National Health Service in 2017/2018

Insight at a glance

With custom-made dashboards, developed in partnership with Livewell staff, clinicians and managers can track wound healing rates, identify trends (e.g. the effectiveness of certain dressings), and monitor the backlog for critical occurrences like the onset of infections.



Early interventions for improved healing

Improved wound monitoring has allowed for earlier interventions for non-healing wounds. Wounds that were flagged as non-healing were successfully stabilised, resulting in the same healing rates as the other wounds.

What Clinicians Are Saying

The quality of the app has allowed us to ensure that we are providing effective, timely care. It allows our senior staff members to have better oversight of the patients' care and the treatment that we're providing."

Arielle Goodbourn, District Nurse Manager



We have been able to demonstrate the outcomes we have seen to date because of the scale of the project. We have provided our staff with easy to use cutting edge technology, which they have embraced and allowed it to become everyday practice. It is enabling us to drive clinical decision making at clinical, managerial and strategic levels."

Michael Oliver, Programme Manager



Minuteful for Wound allows us to closely monitor and follow up our patients, particularly when we are not able to review them ourselves, for example when we are working in different clinics or if we have not seen the patient previously. It has also allowed us to involve patients in their own wound assessment by showing them photographs of their wound progression which we hope will increase patient engagement and promote wellbeing."

Hannah Blake, Leg Wellbeing Club Leader

