



Case study | Salta Province, Argentina

# Wound care education empowers nurses in Argentina





## Clinical education

# Advancing wound care in Salta, Argentina

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### The challenge

- Limited products for treating wounds
- Limited wound care training available and lack of consistency in training among remote provinces
- Few healthcare workers dedicated to wound/burn management
- Limited means of disseminating and communicating effective tools and knowledge

### The solution

- A comprehensive wound assessment tool tailored for use in low-resource settings and a guide for using it
- Educational presentation on best practices for wound care
- Hands-on training that demonstrated the assessment tool with local patients

### The impact

- 240+ nurses and doctors gained knowledge about wound etiologies, wound assessment and documentation
- Nurse champions and nurses-in-training attended hands-on wound care education sessions

## Our partnership

The Medline team worked with local stakeholders from the Argentine Ministry of Health, as well as national wound care experts and administrators at several hospitals. We partnered with Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Canada (NSWOCC) to help educate clinicians in northern Argentina on wound care. NSWOCC is a nonprofit organization that represents over 350 nurses specializing in the care of patients facing wound, ostomy and continence challenges.

Medline established a partnership between the Ministry of Health and NSWOCC, a nonprofit organization of over 350 nurses.

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## The challenge

In 2010, the World Health Organization and the Association for the Advancement of Wound Care recognized chronic wounds as a global health epidemic.<sup>1</sup> Yet despite being a global issue, wound care today is not a recognized specialty in much of the world. Among healthcare workers in northern Argentina, many lack the know-how to handle complex wounds and don't have access to formal training or wound education. For those residing in Tartagal, a city in the northern province of Salta, the closest certified wound expert is over five hours away.

Staff also have limited tools for assessing and treating wounds. Local clinical workers lack basic supplies to care for complex wounds. They sometimes rely on household items like sugar and honey for wound debridement.

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*Continue to the next page to read about the solution.*

# The solution

## How we helped change the story

Experts from NSWOC and Medline met with local physicians and nurses in Argentina to assess wound care needs within the region. Together we learned that the need for wound care education was significant. The sustainable solution was to focus on wound care fundamentals.

Following an initial discovery trip, the team developed a wound assessment tool and educational materials to help nurses follow wound care best practices. The toolkit they created is modeled after the British Columbia Provincial Skin and Wound Care Committee assessment tool, but was adapted to meet low-resource realities and translated into Spanish.

To educate clinicians, [Medline's wound care experts](#), NSWOC and Argentine wound care leaders delivered a live seminar in two cities within the Salta province: Tartagal and Salta, the provincial capital. Over 240 healthcare workers attended. The seminar focused on building foundational knowledge around wound care and promoting consistent and accurate documentation to enable better outcomes. Training was divided into three main areas: skin and wound assessment, pressure injuries and diabetic foot ulcers. Each attendee received copies of the presentations they could take home and refer to in their daily practice. Facilities also received educational posters to reinforce best practices.

Medline and NSWOC hosted a hands-on training session in Tartagal—a particularly high-need, indigenous community—where they introduced and demonstrated the wound assessment tool to over 60 healthcare workers. During the session, the team demonstrated the assessment tool on local patients suffering from a range of wound injuries.

Medline and NSWOC hosted a series of seminars and hands-on trainings, educating over 240 clinicians on wound care best practices.

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### Our Global Health Initiative

## Changing stories around the globe

Medline is working to make healthcare run better for everyone, everywhere. We bring everything that we've learned from serving the world's top health systems to the hospitals and communities that need it most. Together, with nonprofits and other healthcare organizations, we activate the resources that facilities need to overcome the barriers to care. **Ready to help change the story? [Contact Medline to learn more.](#)**

*Continue to the next page to read about the impact.*

# The impact

Trained clinicians credited the educational sessions with improving their understanding of how to evaluate, document and care for wounds. Many described the educational sessions as an invaluable learning experience. Clinicians have reported that after applying the wound assessment tool in their respective hospitals, they saw patient outcomes improve. This collaboration has inspired Argentine doctors and nurses to begin forming a national nonprofit association to steer a sustainable wound, ostomy and continence care program in Argentina.

Medline plans to develop a series of wound care courses through [Medline University](#), its online training portal. Courses will be offered in Spanish to nurse leaders around the globe.

NSWOCC and Medline have inspired Argentine doctors and nurses to form a nonprofit association that will steer a national wound, ostomy and continence care program.

## Take the next step

To learn more about the solutions featured in this case study, please contact your Medline Representative or visit these helpful resources.

- Read more about our commitment to [Global Health](#).
- Learn how to empower staff with wound care knowledge and support at [Skin Health Solutions](#).
- See other ways [we're making a positive social impact](#) in the communities where we live and work.



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1 Macdonald JM, Ryan TJ. Global impact of the chronic wound and lymphoedema. In: Macdonald JM, Geyer MJ eds. Wound and Lymphoedema Management. 2010; 13-22.

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