

## **Skin failure: Diagnosis and treatment of wound and skin disorders in the terminally ill patient**

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Healthcare providers commonly treat and educate patients and family members regarding multiple types of organ failure. The intensive care nurse cares for an intubated patient and teaches the wife about mechanical ventilation for respiratory failure. The cardiologist prescribes a diuretic and explains a low sodium diet for the man with heart failure. However, many providers are not as comfortable diagnosing, treating and educating patients and family about skin failure. This educational session will provide nurses with the information needed to understand the concept of skin failure. Similarly, the learning objectives will include key concepts for treatment with a palliative focus. This treatment includes symptom management, such as controlling pain, odor, drainage, bleeding and bioburden. The lecture will include topics regarding the economic impact of wounds and wound care and some cultural and societal factors associated with wound treatment. We will also discuss the factors associated with wound healing or non-healing.

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