Introduction
Basics of the U.S. legal system
Why do people sue?
Chronic wounds (especially pressure ulcers) – why are they such a hot topic?
Negligence
Definition of adverse events
Standards of Care – where do we find them?
The economic, professional, and personal impacts of litigation

Regulatory Issues and How They Affect Your Wound Care Practice
Federal statutes and regulations
Hospital Acquired Conditions and Never Events – can we really always avoid them?
Those dreaded Department of Health and Joint Commission surveys
Code of Federal Regulations – Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities
State Practice Acts and practicing within your scope

Assessment Essentials
Risk assessment
Patient assessment
Wound assessment
Nutrition assessment
Mobility assessment

Legally Defensible Documentation
What MUST be in the record to effectively defend yourself and your institution
The 5 Cs of effective documentation
Pitfalls to avoid
Electronic Health Records: a boon or a bust when it comes to wound documentation?

Communication Essentials
With the patient
With the family
With the physician
Multidisciplinary involvement and communication

Sticky Situations in Wound Care:
Helpful Hints to Minimize Your Legal Risk
Pain management - Avoiding a “Pain and suffering” allegation
Nutritional allegations - Delay or failure to provide appropriate nutritional interventions
Policies and procedures – can make or break your defense
Staffing levels and competency
Wound photography – pro’s and con’s and guidelines
Malpractice insurance – is it necessary for nurses?

Issues with Select Types of Wounds
Pressure ulcers – avoidable versus unavoidable
Arterial ulcers
Diabetic ulcers
Know the etiology: dangers in failing to correctly diagnose and treat

You Make The Call
Case studies and scenarios

TARGET AUDIENCE
Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Physical Therapists, Nursing Home Administrators

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