**Project Title:** Using audit to explore the impact of a local policy change on the diagnosis of lower leg ulcer aetiology and access to optimal treatment for people on the community nursing caseload in Sydney Local Health District

**Code:** SNS2

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<tr>
<th>Host School / Institute: Sydney Nursing School</th>
<th>Address: Sydney Nursing School, Camperdown with some days at a community nursing centre in Sydney Local Health District</th>
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<td><strong>Certificates &amp; Clearances required:</strong> Yes <em>Vaccination Certificate</em> <em>Police clearance</em></td>
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*Information on how to obtain certificates, where necessary, will be given to successful applicants.*

**Primary Supervisor:** Dr Sue Randall

**Phone:** 02 9351 0628 **Email:** sue.randall@sydney.edu.au

**Co-Supervisor/team:** Panagiota Avramidis Clinical Nurse Specialist (Wounds) Sydney District Nursing and Naomi James Acting Clinical Nurse Specialist (Wounds) Sydney District Nursing

**Project Type:** Data Analysis; Audit; Literature Review

**Project Category:** Nursing; Chronic Diseases/Illness

**Skills / Attributes of a successful student:** This project would suit a student who is interested in primary health care and community nursing. Attention to detail is required and the ability to work autonomously (with guidance and support) and in a team. Knowledge and skills in using Excel will be an advantage, but not essential.

**Project Keywords:** venous leg ulcers; community nursing; primary health care; equity; access

**Project Description:** Be part of a project that makes a difference to people with lower leg ulcers living in their own homes and learn new skills along the way.

In 2017, a summer scholar under the supervision of Dr Sue Randall worked in a team which included community specialist wound nurses. An audit tool was created and used. Results showed that 40% of patients with a lower leg ulcer did not have a diagnosis and were therefore on sub-optimal treatment. This led to a change in local policy to allow specialist wound nurses to identify patients for suitability to receive compression therapy following comprehensive assessment including ankle brachial pressure index (ABPI). Furthermore, a planned change in service provision is underway and two publications completed had the summer scholar as author.

The time is now right to repeat this audit. We want to assess whether the change in policy has reduced the number of people who received inequitable treatment as a result of diminished access and had been on sub-optimal treatment. Ethics is in place for the repeat audit.

Would you like to be part of continuing to make a difference for people with leg ulcers and the nurses who work with them? We hope so. Working on this project offers you the following:
- working with a friendly and supportive team
- a day working with the wound specialist nurses to gain a greater understanding of the key aspects for nurses and patients.
- working at Sydney Nursing School, with some days at a community nursing centre and some negotiated days at home
- opportunity to search and organise literature
- work with data extracted from patient records by the specialist community wound nurses
- enter data into excel
- opportunity to contribute to data analysis*
- opportunity to contribute to report writing and publication*

* These activities may fall outside of the timeframe, but if the successful student wishes to continue to contribute they may still be included.