Wounds are breaches in the structure of the skin that compromise skin function. They can be painful and lead to additional medical complications. Wounds become chronic when they have not completed the healing process in the expected time frame, usually within 30 days. Standard wound care may not be sufficient to jump start a stalled wound; advanced wound therapies can help reduce the total cost of care and help restore a patient’s quality of life.

### DIABETIC FOOT ULCERS

- **Foot ulceration** is the precursor to approximately 4 percent of lower extremity amputations in persons with diabetes.
- Collagen dressings have been shown to reduce the risk of hospitalization and associated length of hospital stay.
- Collagen dressings promote rapid healing.

### PRESSURE ULCERS

- **Pressure ulcer prevalence and the role of negative pressure wound therapy** in home health quality outcomes.
- Reduced risk of hospitalization and associated length of hospital stay.
- Reduced the risk of hospitalization and emergent care expenditures.
- Reduced total nursing time and wound related costs.
- Reduced risk of repeat skin graft and associated length of hospital stay.

### VENOUS LEG ULCERS

- **An estimated two million Americans** are affected by venous leg ulcers each year, at a cost of $4.6 billion to the health care system.
- Reduced cost of care in acute and post-acute settings.
- Reduced risk of hospitalization and emergent care expenditures.
- Reduced total nursing time and wound related costs.

### PRESSURE ULCERS

- **The estimated cost of managing a single full-thickness pressure ulcer is nearly $70,000**.
- **Negative pressure wound therapy reduces incidence of emergent care and hospitalizations for pressure ulcer patients, reduces secondary amputations for patients with diabetic foot ulcers, and reduces healing time for patients with chronic wounds**.
- **Therapeutic support surfaces have demonstrated a threshold improvement in median rate of healing, compared with foam/mattresses**.

### treatment

Medical technology has helped to evolve wound treatment dramatically over the past 15 years, from simple dressings to sophisticated, evidence-based options that treat and promote wound healing.

### Bladeless Innovations

Cellular and/or tissue-based products for wounds promote rapid closure of diabetic foot ulcers and lead to a higher percentage of wounds closed than conventional therapy. Antimicrobial dressings act on multiple axes within microbial cells and reduce the likelihood of bacterial developing resistance.

### Medtech as a Solution

Estimates indicate that wounds account for nearly 4 percent of health care system costs, and that number is rising.