

Terms of Reference (ToR)

EWMA Compression Therapy Programme, steering committee and International Expert Group

1. Objectives of the EWMA Compression Therapy Programme

The primary objectives of the *EWMA Compression Therapy Programme* (hereafter referred to as "the Programme") are to

- raise awareness that compression is evidence based.
- Promote the campaign to a broader group of health professional.
- raise awareness about the role of compression therapy as a multi-comorbid and not just for venous leg ulcers.
- understand and raise awareness about the human factors influencing the use of compression therapy.
- examine and influence the language of compression therapy to support change in clinical practice.
- Support national societies to promote this campaign and grow compression champions

2. Scope of Work

The Group will focus on the following key areas:

- Promote awareness, education and key messages on the importance of compression therapy in the management of these conditions.
- Develop and host educational resources/courses supporting optimal use of compression therapy in lower leg ulcers and lymphoedema (including e-learning modules, live webinars, face-to-face masterclasses, workshops, courses).
- Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including healthcare providers, academic institutions, and patient advocacy groups, to ensure widespread adoption of this campaign.

The groups will focus on reaching all relevant health care professionals across Europe via collaboration with national associations and translation of resources to support availability.

3. Organisation

The Programme is run by two groups:

- The Compression Therapy Programme steering group (hereafter referred to as the 'Steering Group')

- The Compression Therapy Programme international expert group (hereafter referred to as the 'International Expert Group')

The groups shall work collaboratively in their networks to enhance global standards of care, ensuring that patients receive effective and safe treatment based on the latest scientific research.

3.1 The Compression Therapy Programme Steering Group

Members of the Steering Group are selected by the programme chair. Steering Group members must have a special interest and expertise in the use of compression therapy in lower leg ulcer and lymphoedema management.

Membership Criteria:

- Expertise and special interest in the field of compression therapy in wound care and/or lymphoedema management.
- Commitment to the Group's objectives and willingness to contribute to its activities, including actively contributing to the development of resources supporting the objectives of the group.
- Commitment to actively participate in meetings, discussions, and decision-making processes related to The Programme.

3.2 The Compression Therapy Programme International Expert Group

Members of the International Expert Group are invited by members of the Steering Committee (after approval by the programme chair) and is also open for new members requesting membership on their own initiative. Members of the International Expert Group should ideally be part of a clinical network that may include national or international wound management societies within the field.

Membership Criteria:

- Expertise and special interest in the field of compression therapy in wound care and/or lymphoedema management.
- Commitment to the Group's objectives and willingness to promote and disseminate the Group's recommendations and educational resources within their professional networks.
- Willingness to contribute to educational events (online and face-to-face)
- Willingness to participate in regular meetings (approx. two per year) in addition to providing their expert comments.
- Representation from a variety of geographical regions to ensure global relevance of the guidance produced.

4. Governance and Structure

- **Chairperson:** The chair of the committee is selected by the EWMA Executive Committee. The chair will be responsible for leading meetings, coordinating activities, and representing the Group in external communications (supported by the EWMA Secretariat).
- **Administration and development of resources:** The groups are supported by the EWMA Secretariat which will support the organisation and development of resources related to the work of the group.

5. Funding and Support

- The Programme is supported by a group of industry sponsors.
 - The funding will support the work of the EWMA Secretariat (Staff payment) as well as direct costs related to the programme.
 - Industry sponsors are invited to a minimum of two meetings with the steering group per year and are invited to comment on resources developed by the group, in prior to publication. The final decision concerning resources developed by the group will, however, always be decided by the Steering Group.
- The Group is a non-profit entity and operates on a voluntary basis. However, EWMA will reimburse all direct costs related to meetings, educational events, etc.
- Symbolic fees may be paid for substantial contributions to educational resources or courses. These fees should be agreed on before the work is initiated.

6. Amendments to the Terms of Reference

- These Terms of Reference may be reviewed and amended as necessary by the Steering Group.

By joining the Group, members agree to adhere to these Terms of Reference and commit to working collaboratively to achieve the Group's objectives.