Chronic Wounds in LTC
- Chronic wounds affect approximately 1 million older adults annually
- The problem is particularly impactful in Long Term Care (LTC) settings
- 12.3% of newly admitted older patients will develop a pressure
  injury (PI) within 1 year
- 11.3% of these will worsen over time
- Evidence supports the use of WOC nurses to assure high quality,
  cost-effective care for PI and other wounds

Shortage of WOC Nurses
- A global shortage of WOC nurses exists across all healthcare
  delivery settings
- Shortage evident in western North Carolina (WNC)
- Shortage impacts the delivery of evidence-based, quality wound care
- Use of telehealth technology may aid in overcoming this obstacle

Purpose
- The purpose of this evidence-based practice (EBP) project is to test the
  fidelity and feasibility of using telehealth technology for comprehensive
  WOC service delivery to underserved rural practice settings

Background/Clinical Problem
- Regional referral center for WNC and the surrounding 10,000 square
  miles
- 2,000 patient transfers/year
- 45,000 inpatient visits/year
- 325,000 outpatient visits/year
- North Carolina’s 6th largest health system and the tertiary care
  regional referral center
- Composed of 7 hospitals, numerous primary care clinics, as well as
  regional referral center
- Lack of healthcare providers
- Economic barriers
- Lack of and barriers to transportation
- Region is among the poorest and most isolated areas of the country
- Economic barriers
- Lack of healthcare providers
- Lack of and barriers to transportation

Reliability Testing Purpose Statement
- The purpose of this project was to determine the intra and inter-rater
  reliability of wound assessment and treatment decisions using
  ARG telehealth technology as compared to traditional bedside assessment

PICO Statement
- Patient: Adult residents of a rural SNF
- Intervention: Remote WOC assessment and management delivered via telehealth technology
- Comparator: Standard care (care management delivered by non-WOC nurses)
- Outcomes: New pressure/lower extremity ulcer development, Progression of wound size and status, Time to heal, Treatment cost

Methods
- Intra-rater Reliability, Completion of a documentation-based wound assessment tool
- WOC nurse assessed wound remotely
- Surfi RN present at bedside wearing the AR glasses

Results
- 20 wounds on 16 patients were assessed for intra- and inter-rater reliability
- 6 wound assessment components were included
- 117 total observation points
- Intra-rater assessment reliability was 97%
- Treatment reliability was 100%

Discussion
- Results support further evaluation of AR glasses as a tool to perform remote wound assessments by a WOC nurse
- AR technology has the potential to enhance Pitirrhcinous wound care
- Decreasing related complications
- Improving time to heal
- Decreasing ED visits
- Reducing wound related mortality

Next Steps
- Exploration and evaluation of AR glasses in Primary Care and Home Health
- Implementation and evaluation of AR glasses in LTC