

After Four Years of Chronic Foot Wounds, Man with Diabetes Walks Again

Consistent, one-on-one treatment helps him heal at home

Challenge:

Joseph T., a 52-year-old man with diabetes, found a wound on his foot after mowing his lawn in the summer of 2009. Since he feels limited sensation in his feet due to his diabetes, Joseph didn't recognize the severity of his injury.

When Joseph realized the wound wasn't healing, he went to his primary care physician who treated it for about two years without success. Still in pain, Joseph sought treatment from a podiatrist, who helped the wound heal slightly. Once again, Joseph switched doctors and underwent several hospitalizations and multiple rounds of long-term antibiotic therapy. After a total of four years in treatment, not only did Joseph still suffer from his chronic wound, three more wounds had formed.



BAYADA Nurse Ilene Blumenthal helped heal Joseph T.'s chronic wounds.

"It was a revolving door of caregivers who did not know how to treat my wounds," said Joseph. "It was frustrating that every day there was a new caregiver who knew nothing about my wound history." Joseph was given strict orders to be non-weight bearing on both feet, which added to his depression. He had no faith that he would ever be able to walk again, even though he was seeing a doctor every two weeks.

Solution:

Joseph was referred to BAYADA Home Health Care, and on March 18, 2014, BAYADA Nurse Ilene Blumenthal, RN, BSN was assigned to Joseph because of her wound care experience. After thoroughly assessing his wounds and reviewing his treatment history, Ilene recommended treatments aligned with BAYADA's researched-based clinical protocols for wound care.

With approval from Joseph's surgeon, Ilene changed the treatments every two to three weeks, which helped the wounds begin to heal. Ilene visited Joseph three times a week, keeping track of his day-to-day progress.

Outcome:

With treatments administered by Ilene and self-care education provided to Joseph, his visits to the doctor decreased, he had no rehospitalizations, and all four of his wounds healed completely within five months. On August, 21, 2014, Joseph T. was discharged from BAYADA.

"I feel like I hit the jackpot having Ilene and BAYADA come into my home to heal me," said Joseph. "I feel so fortunate."

Ilene attributes Joseph's positive experience to the personalized care he received. "Sometimes, people just need consistent, one-on-one treatment in their own environment," said Ilene. "It's good for not only a client's physical health, but also for their mental health, which together contributes to healing the 'whole person'. That's the goal of home care."

Ilene adds, "On my last visit with Joseph before he was discharged, I was able to see him get up to answer the door," she said. "There's nothing more rewarding than that."