What is SWHSI-COS?

SWHSI-COS is an **NIHR-funded study** aiming to develop a **Core Outcome Set (COS)** for use in clinical and research settings in **surgical wounds healing by secondary intention (SWHSI)**.

This project aims to standardise outcome reporting and centre outcome choice around the needs and priorities of patients and other key stakeholders.

- Standardisation encourages the **most impactful measures to be reported consistently** across trials, research groups and research centres
- This **reduces bias** that can occur through selective outcome reporting
- Ultimately, this leads to **more efficient research** design and progress

Centring key stakeholders has been an essential pillar of the study design, with the study split into three key stages:

Stage one was an information gathering exercise to understand which outcomes are the most important to patients, clinicians and researchers. To do this, we undertook:

- **A national survey of clinicians**, exploring their thoughts and decision-making around SWHSIs
- **A systematic review of outcomes** that have been utilised in clinical trials in the area in the past
- **A series of qualitative interviews** to understand what patients and lived experience experts believed was the most important things to focus on

Stage two is a **national Delphi prioritization process** which will help us to rank the importance of all the different possible outcomes identified in stage one

Stage three is a **consensus meeting** at which the final core outcome set will be defined

Your involvement will be embedded into the development of the COS, and help to guide national and international research practice in this area.

Additional Study Information

The SWHSI-COS Study is funded through the National Institute for Health and Care Research Doctoral Fellowship (NIHR303688) and based at Hull York Medical School. This study has received ethical approval from Leeds West Research Ethics Committee and HRA and Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW).

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