The District’s Hi-Desert Family Health Clinic in Yucca Valley is pleased to announce the recent opening of a new wound care program!

For most people, cuts and scratches heal within a few days or weeks. However, more than six million Americans suffer from chronic, non-healing wounds.

People with diabetes comprise one of the largest groups of wound care patients. The disease makes the feet and legs susceptible to distress with a diminished ability to heal. People with diabetes are more susceptible to infection, are plagued by poor circulation and frequently have neuropathy.

Other wound clinic candidates include those with bone infections, diabetic foot ulcers, lower-leg ulcers, post-operative infections, burns and slow healing surgical wounds, chronic venous insufficiency, autoimmune diseases, and patients on chemotherapy or receiving radiation therapy.

Complex and chronic wounds often require advanced dressings or treatments that are difficult to provide in the home or even the doctor’s office setting. These advanced wounds often require therapies provided by professional clinicians trained in this specialized care.

Christine Rodriguez, MPT, CWS knows that chronic wounds can have serious health consequences that affect all aspect of one’s life. She’s pretty much seen it all in her more than 20 years working in this specialty, most recently at Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs. She is heading up the wound care program under the direction of Bhaskar Nalam, MD., general and vascular surgeon.

Her training is in physical therapy, and she recognizes that it’s rather an unorthodox route to work in the wound care field, but this treatment is in this scope of practice. In fact, physical therapists play a vital role in wound healing.

Christine explains that she begins each patient visit gathering a thorough medical history to determine the cause of the wound. Addressing circulation issues is critical, as is education around the patient’s role in treating the wound and preventing re-infection. Other considerations include ensuring adequate nutrition and the treatment of infection and pain management.

“Education is critical to help my patients understand the wound, as well as learning the warning signs and when to come in for this treatment before it gets out of hand,” she says.

Christine acknowledges there is a critical need for this service here and she is excited to bring her expertise to the Hi-Desert, where she calls home. A local resident, Christine says she was seeing a lot of Hi-Desert patients down the hill. She’s thrilled to be seeing many familiar faces at the new clinic.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 760/365-9305.