Table 1: Participant baseline characteristics (continuous variables)

Characteristic	All patients Mean (SD) n=80	Usual care Mean (SD) n=54	Optimal care Mean (SD) n=26	p-value
Age, *years*	75.1 (13.9)	73.3 (14.7)	79 (11.3)	0.053
Height, *cm*	170.2 (11.6)	171.7 (11.1)	166 (12.3)	0.094
Weight, *kg*	93.3 (33.0)	97.9 (34.3)	80.6 (26.2)	**0.037**
BMI, kg/m^2	33.1 (11.2)	34.1 (11.8)	30.0 (8.7)	0.260
Ankle circumference, *per leg, cm*	23.9 (2.5)	24.2 (2.6)	23.6 (2.5)	0.450
Calf circumference, *per leg, cm*	36.8 (4.9)	37.6 (5.2)	36.0 (4.5)	0.289
Left ABPI* ratio	1.01 (0.21)	1.2 (0)	0.98 (0.22)	-
Right ABPI ratio	0.99 (0.25)	1.09 (0.16)	0.97 (0.27)	-
Toe pressure index	0.69 (0.16)	0.84 (0.3)	0.64 (0.06)	-

*ABPI – ankle brachial pressure index
"–" designates samples with too few data collected, or too few data for statistical testing

Table 2: Participant baseline characteristics (categorical variables)

Characteristic	All patients *n*, (%)[+++] n=80	Usual care patients *n*, (%)[+++] n=54	Optimal care patients *n*, (%)[+++] n=26	p-value
BMI Category				
Underweight	2 (3.9)	2 (5.3)	0 (0)	0.31
Normal	14 (27.5)	8 (21.1)	6 (46.2)	
Overweight	8 (15.7)	6 (15.8)	2 (15.4)	
Obese	27 (52.9)	22 (57.9)	5 (38.5)	
Gender, male	32 (40)	25 (46.3)	7 (26.9)	0.1
Venous insufficiency	65 (81.3)	46 (85.2)	19 (73.1)	0.19
Reduced Mobility	70 (87.5)	47 (87)	23(88.5)	0.86
Age >70	56 (70)	38 (70.4)	18 (69.2)	0.91
Clinical signs of infection (at admission)	18 (22.5)	11 (20.4)	7 (26.9)	0.52
Hypercholesterolemia	10 (12.5)	5 (9.3)	5 (19.2)	0.21
Lymphedema/ Oedema (history)	40 (49.4)	27 (50)	13 (50)	1
Oedema (at admission)	51 (63.8)	33 (61.1)	18 (69.2)	0.48
Eczema (at admission)	15 (18.8)	10 (18.5)	5 (19.2)	0.94
Hypertension	31 (38.8)	17 (31.5)	14 (53.8)	**0.055**
Peripheral arterial disease	4 (5)	3 (5.6)	1 (3.85)	0.73
Smoker	5 (6.25)	3 (5.6)	2 (7.7)	0.72
Deep vein thrombosis	2 (2.5)	1 (1.9)	1 (3.85)	0.60

"–" designates samples with too few data, or too few data for statistical testing

[+++]Please note variables may not add to 100 in percentages, as each variable had different numbers of available data.

^BMI category was tested using Chi-Square analysis and all other tests were completed using z test

Table 3: Wound characteristics at baseline

Wound measurement, cm (per wound)	All patients n=80	Usual care patients n=54	Optimal care patients n=26	p-value
Wound length, *Mean (SD)*	2.9 (2.3)	3.4 (2.6)	2.6 (2.2)	0.426
Wound width, *Mean (SD)*	2.2 (1.5)	2.3 (1.6)	2.1 (1.4)	0.983
Wound depth, *Mean (SD)*	0.6 (0.5)	-	0.4 (0.3)	-
Ulcer duration, *Mean (SD), in months*	46.9 (91.3)	46.1 (86.8)	48.5 (100.7)	0.885
Ulcer duration, *Median (IQR)[+], in months*	10 (42)	12 (45)	6 (29.75)	0.309

[+]IQR - interquartile range

[+]for analysis <1 was assumed to be 1 and >360 months was assumed to be 360 months

"–" designates samples with too few data collected, or too few data for statistical testing.

Table 4: Average weekly costs per patient at baseline (AUD$)

	Usual care Mean	Optimal care Mean	p-value
Transport cost	$13.95	$17.69	
Consultancy cost (out-of-pocket)	$16.37	$67.10	
Consultancy cost (health care system)	$71.41	$78.13	
Costs of using other medical services (out-of-pocket)	$9.94	$8.27	
Costs of using other medical services (health care system)	$38.95	$37.60	
Product cost	$62.87	$85.93	
Total weekly costs (health system)	$110.36	$115.73	0.736
Total weekly costs (out-of-pocket)	$104.25	$178.99	**0.016**
Total weekly costs	$214.61	$294.72	**0.04**

The "Totals" rows display the pooled results from the use of multiple imputation to handle missing data. Only the total weekly costs (by payer perspective and overall) were statistically tested.

Table 5: Baseline and three-month EQ-5D-5L scores

Time point	All patients Mean, (SD)	Usual care group Mean, (SD)	Optimal care group Mean, (SD)	Difference between optimal and usual care groups p-value, (95% CI*)
Baseline	0.67 (±0.24)	0.64 (±0.26)	0.75 (±0.16)	**0.025** (0.014 - 0.206)
3 month	0.80 (±0.18)	0.78 (±0.19)	0.83 (± 0.15)	0.414 (-0.061 to 0.146)

*CI – Confidence interval

At baseline, the mean utility score of optimal and usual care patients were 0.75 (±0.16) and 0.64 (±0.26) respectively. The difference in these scores reached statistical significance (p=0.025).

Table 6: Time-to-healing

Number of ulcers healed after 1, 2, 3 and 6 months	Usual care (n=27)	Optimal care (n=19)	p-value
1 month healing *n,(%)*	5 (18.5)	5 (26.3)	**0.045**
2 month healing *n,(%)*	1 (3.7)	2 (10.5)	
3 month healing *n,(%)*	8 (29.6)	10 (52.6)	
6 month healing *n,(%)*	13 (48.1)	2 (10.5)	
Time-to-healing	**Usual care (n=54)**	**Optimal care (n=26)**	**p-value**
Time-to-healing (months) *Mean, per ulcer*	3.9	2.7	-
Time-to-healing (months) *Median (IQR⁺), per ulcer*	3 (3)	3 (1.5)	**0.012**
Total number of ulcers during the first 3 months	94	75	
Ulcers healed at 3 month data collection *(n, %)*	15 (16%)	17 (22.7%)	**0.27**
Patients healed at 3 month data collection *(n, %)*	12/42 (28.6%)	6/20 (30%)	0.912

$^+$ IQR – Interquartile range
"–" designates samples with too few data collected, or too few data for statistical testing

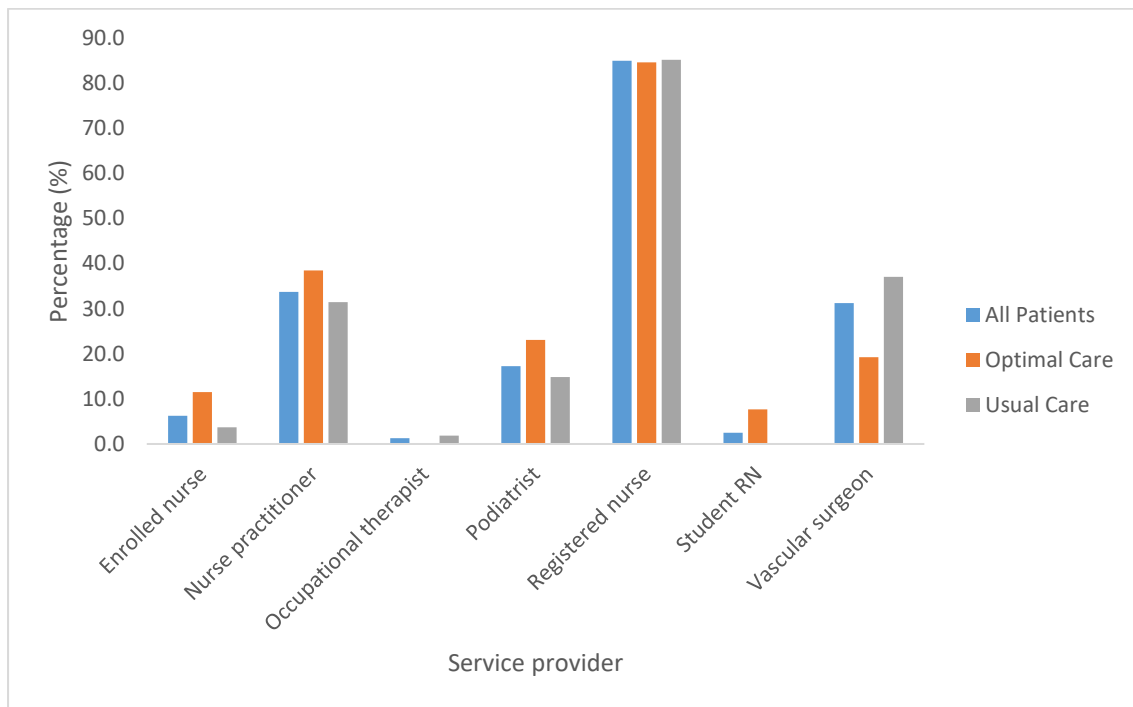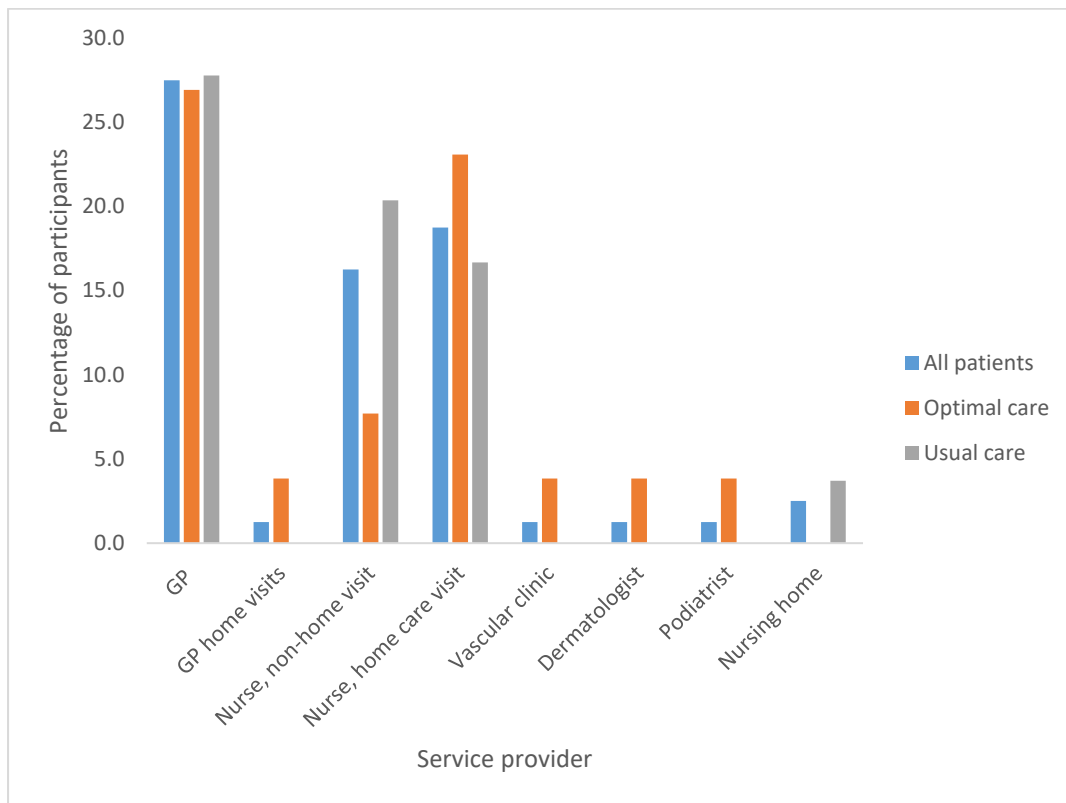Figure 1: Proportions of participants receiving care from different service providers

Figure 3: Weekly cost of VLU management by clinic