Clinical leadership is required to support practice change in healthcare if it is to be successful and sustainable. Investment in maximising clinical leadership capacity among nurses can support evidence translation projects, which seek improved outcomes for clients and service delivery.

In the broader project to which this study pertains, state-wide community nursing services in regional Victoria are implementing the RDNS Leg Ulcer Prevention Program (LUPP), an e-learning client education package for people with venous leg ulcers. Participants, who are implementing and evaluating LUPP, will develop a new clinical leadership model for ‘LUPP Leaders’ across the sites, which will encourage the development of a support network that contributes to sustaining this practice change, and the ongoing uptake of evidence based practice. This component of the project presents an opportunity to evaluate the clinical leadership model that will be generated in this project.

As part of the broader project, the lead clinicians at participating sites will be engaged in a series of workshops and teleconferences designed to promote evidence based practice by:

- Enabling LUPP Team Leaders, and the resulting leadership group, with clinical leadership and evidence based practice training.
- Providing LUPP Team Leaders with the principle evidence based practice resource (the LUPP client education program), and support to implement it at their service.
- Creating opportunity for members to meet in person and remotely to collaborate to refine a clinical leadership group model, and to develop a ‘virtual team’, thereby encouraging sustainable, ongoing support by their peers after completion of the project.

This study will invite participants to complete surveys and participate in semi-structured focus group discussions to evaluate the clinical leadership model refined by participants during this project. An expected outcome is a framework to engage and support future ‘LUPP Leaders’, across a range of healthcare settings and locations, who are implementing evidence based practice and who are seeking a means to generate sustainable practice change.

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