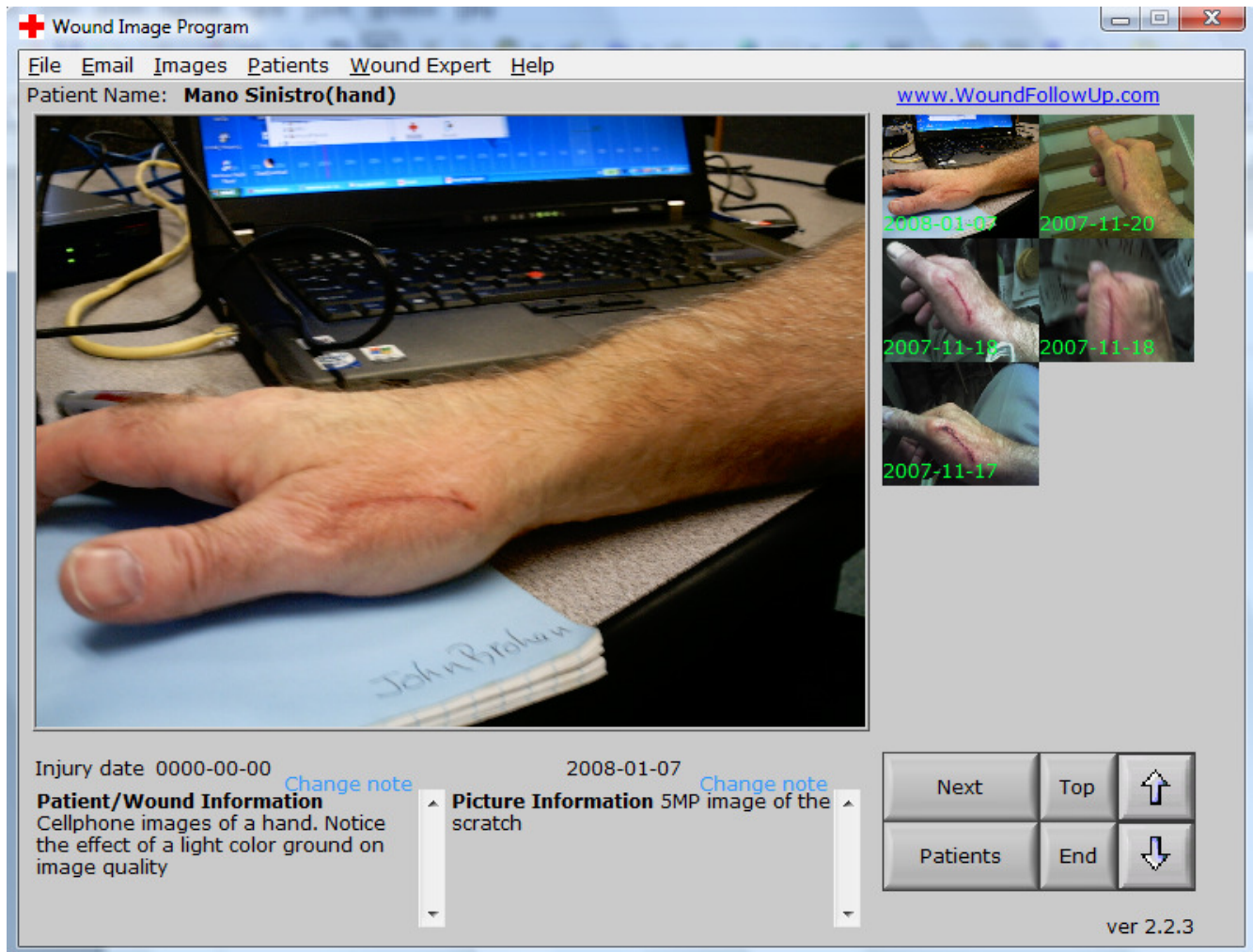


Wound Follow Up Technology Long Term Care Facility

Bed Sores are a continuous worry in Long Term Care. Wound Follow Up is a way to keep track of these wounds to better monitor your residents.



Main screen of the Wound Follow Up program. You can move any of the thumbnails to the main window, and enlarge that to the maximum. This helps you see the state of the wound.

In the Nursing Home situation the pictures are generally taken by a nurse at dressing change. A normal digital camera is very suitable. It is easy to get the pictures from the camera to the file of the patient, *Images >> Upload from Camera*. Then you can review your patients and think about each in a constructive way, noting improvement or planning alternative approaches.

Sometimes it's necessary to consult a doctor. With frail elderly patients this is hard for them. One alternative is to send some of the pictures to the doctor and operate by tele-medicine. Experience to date has been positive. Some doctors prefer the calm to think about the pictures, and all are conscious of the pain they are saving their patients and convenience to the people caring for them. In one recent case a rash was diagnosed as fungal, and it responded quickly to appropriate treatment. There are difficulties with this tele medicine approach, the reimbursement is not always straightforward, it is a good deal cheaper, though.

Wound Follow Up is not the main chart of the patient. It is more a place to note and manage the images conveniently. There is a *Notes* feature where you can store observations about the patient or the picture. It is here that the staging and progress information is entered.

Economics

Wound Follow Up promotes healing of the wounds by making it easy for the nurse to monitor the change in their appearance. This produces economies by reducing the amount of nursing time and the dressing materials.

The savings from conducting doctor visits by tele medicine is much greater. It puts the home in the forefront of medical technology.

The costs side of the equation consists of the costs of buying the camera and the computer, the license for the software and the nursing time to take and look at the pictures. Training time is about one hour for a computer literate nurse.

Pressure Ulcer Documentation

The wounds can be scored using the PUSH 3.0, the Braden Risk score, or the NUPAP staging system. Each offers a different perspective and is useful in combination with the pictures to aid constructive thought about the resident.

