



# Patient Success Story

## Denise Elder, Baptist Hospital of Nashville

A retired nurse, Wound Care Center® (WCC) patient Denise Elder is no stranger to the process of wound treatment. “Through my experience as a nurse in home health, I have treated many patients and have seen the success Wound Care Centers have had with my patients,” Ms. Elder said.

A few years ago, when she developed her first diabetic wound, Ms. Elder received treatment at a hospital that did not offer specialized wound care. The healing process was slow and painful, lasting a year-and-a-half. When a second wound developed, she chose the WCC at Baptist Hospital to oversee her treatment. Only a few months in, her wound was nearly healed. “I just knew that this is where I needed to be,” she said.

“After my previous wound, I expected the healing process to last at least another six months. Now, my doctors tell me I should be healed within three more weeks.”

Program Director Greg Pierce said, “I like seeing the results that we get from our team approach to healing patients. Nearly every patient is healed, and that’s very rewarding.” The Center’s healing rate reached 97 percent in quarter four of 2009.

That team approach is a staff comprised of trained nurses and surgeons, including vascular and plastic. “Everyone is oriented towards healing wounds and the total care of the patient,” said Dr. Warren Patterson, medical director.

Using advanced modalities, Diversified Clinical Services’ WCCs take a specialized approach to heal patients, including hyperbaric oxygen therapy, skin grafts, specialty dressings, and off-loading techniques.

This means more patients are experiencing results like Ms. Elder’s, and they are excited to get back to their lives. “After my first wound, I expected the healing process to last at least another six months. I was shocked when I was healed in only a few more weeks!”