

Skin integrity policy

Objectives:

To Deliver safe, high quality care and to identify those who are at risk of developing skin damage and pressure ulcers, to ensure appropriate preventative interventions. To provide guidance to all staff on the key elements & requirements of practice when undertaking pressure ulcer preventative care. To ensure that individuals receive timely, individualised, appropriate, safe, evidence based pressure ulcer preventative care, to minimise the risk of complications.

Pressure Ulcers can affect anyone from new-borns to those at the end of life and can cause significant pain and distress for our individuals. Pressure ulcers cause considerable harm to individuals. Pressure ulcers may predispose the individual to infection and sepsis.

Policy:

All pressure ulcers must be recorded, and reported to the supervisor or manager.

We do not treat wounds - pressure sores/ulcers, but must be aware of them for times we partake in an individual's personal care, and for their wellbeing.

All care staff must complete the provided end of life and pressure sores training online.

Risks:

Deep tissue damage leading to pressure ulceration often occurs before outward signs are visible. Identifying individuals 'at risk' is essential in reducing the incidence. Although potentially all individuals are at risk, some groups have an enhanced risk status these include;

- ♣ Those with impaired mobility or who are immobile (including a recent fracture/ cast, prosthesis, splints, or cardio vascular accident
- ♣ Those with physical ill health e.g. chest infection, flu, winter vomiting disease
- ♣ Those with severe depression leading to lack of motivation to mobility
- ♣ Those with impaired/compromised nutrition and/or dehydration
- ♣ Those with a neurological or sensory deficit; dementia, CVA, MS, diabetes, spinal injuries, epilepsy, motor neurone disease
- ♣ Those who are obese
- ♣ Those with poorly controlled pain Prevention & management of pressure ulcers
- ♣ The terminally ill

- ♣ Those who are incontinent

- ♣ Wheelchair users

- ♣ Individuals with chronic skin conditions such as eczema/psoriasis etc. should have specialist advice sought from a Dermatology specialist.

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Dated:01/11/20

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Implementation date: 01/11/20

Review date: 01/10/21