

Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Wound Management Policy

TEMPLATE TO USE TO ASSESS AND MINIMISE THE IMPACT OF A PROPOSED NEW POLICY, SERVICE OR PLANS ON DIVERSITY

Policy Name: ____ Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Wound Management Policy

Lead for EIA and contact details: ____ Jane Holden, Lead Nurse for Plastic Surgery and Krzysztof Gebhardt, Clinical Nurse Specialist for Pressure Sore Prevention

STEPS/ACTIONS	OUTCOMES/KEY FINDINGS
<p>Step 1</p> <p>Aim, Objectives, Outcome of Policy</p>	<p>Section 6 of the current policy sets out the aims and objectives, which are by sub specialty (wounds, pressure ulcers, stomas etc). There are no defined outcomes. In essence, there is an aim to achieve excellent care in both pressure ulcer prevention and wound management.</p> <p>The policy was originally written in different sections but in the last revision, some coordinating sections such as section 6 were written to give it a more cohesive feel.</p> <p>The policy is now out of date and needs to be re-formatted using the new Trust policy template.</p>
<p>Step 2</p> <p>Screening the policy or service for relevance to diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age • gender • disability • race • language • religion or belief • sexuality • human rights <p>If there is no relevance process stops here.</p>	<p>Age: The policy applies to all patients in the Trust but there is no separate section recognising the needs of neonates whom have specific tissue viability requirements.</p> <p>It is also the elderly who are most likely to be at risk from pressure ulceration and many are admitted from home or nursing homes with ulcers.</p> <p>Gender: not relevant</p> <p>Disability: This is relevant as it may affect a number of issues including pressure ulcer risk if illness or disability impacts ability to change position. Underlying medical conditions such as cancer and diabetes may impact on tissue viability and wound healing. Mental ill-health may impact on motivation to change position and on ability to self-care. Mental capacity can impact on patients' ability to consent for treatment.</p> <p>Race: Not thought to be relevant although there is some US research that shows that black Americans may be more at risk of pressure ulcers although this is disputed internationally as it could relate more to the socio-economic situation of the individuals involved in the research rather than physical cause.</p> <p>It should also be noted that developing pressure ulcers may not be noticed as quickly with black patient as opposed to that of a white patient where redness indicating initial pressure damage is easy to identify. In this situation, focussing on risk factors to select appropriate products rather than actual skin condition is the key to equality.</p> <p>Language: The Trust serves a multicultural population who speak a wide range of languages. The policy and associated leaflets are generally only available in English at present so there could be an impact on patient education however clinical areas do have access to interpreting services e.g. LanguageLine (http://www.languageLine.co.uk/)</p>

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	<p>Religion or Belief: This may be relevant with regard to selection of skin cleaning products or wound dressings. Bovine gelatine is a constituent of one hydrocolloid which may be a concern to vegans or Hindus. Maggot therapy is very effective in removing dead wound tissue but may not be an acceptable choice for some patients who may have a fear of insects or find the idea unpalatable. It is also a problem that manufacturers may not list all of the ingredients in their products so clinical staff may not be able to help patients make an informed choice here.</p> <p>Sexuality: not generally relevant but may be relevant to stoma care where stoma bags visible on the abdomen or as a result of specific surgery contribute to a patient's own feelings of sexuality in terms of altered body image.</p> <p>Human Rights: It is important that there is informed consent on the part of patients, particularly for specific interventions such as surgical debridement of wounds or maggot therapy.</p> <p>Also the Trust sees bariatric patients in a variety of settings who will have specific needs in terms of maximum load bearing pressure ulcer equipment (mattresses and beds) – see Policy for Handling of Heavier Patient</p>
<p>Step 3 Assessing the impact that a proposed policy or service is likely to have on diversity.</p>	<p>The aim of the policy is that the patient receives a holistic assessment and that the appropriate equipment/dressings are selected as part of the care package. So the policy should have a beneficial effect on diversity</p>
<p>Step 4 Consulting with groups who are likely to be affected and identifying remedial action (state which groups were consulted)</p>	<p>The policy has previously consulted with experts to write their sections such as infection control, T&O pin sites and it is the authors intention to adopt this approach again.</p> <p>There is a need to include Neonatal staff in the updating of the policy so that there is a section in the new policy relating to neonates.</p> <p>The authors have not routinely consulted with either staff or patients about this policy. However when a patient leaflet was designed to explain to patients why they needed pressure ulcer prevention therapy, this was discussed with a group of patients to see if they found the leaflet useful and that received positive feedback, albeit 5 years ago.</p> <p>In addition, the Lead Nurse for Plastics recently asked ward managers and others for feedback about the need for a nurse specialist in wound management and received very little feedback from clinical areas but those that responded felt that the ward managers should have sufficient expertise to advise staff about dressing selection. Therefore the policy needs to make it easy for staff to look up their query and get an answer in the absence of a dedicated resource.</p> <p>Thus it may be useful to get some nursing staff at ward level to see whether the output at the end of the policy revision is easy to use.</p>

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<p>Step 5 Proposed changes, improvements to make to the policy or service in order for it to promote equality and diversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include neonates • Include a section on informed consent • Include a section on equality and diversity issues such as consideration of religion or beliefs when making a dressing selection
<p>Step 6 Resource Implications (if any)</p>	<p>Time, in updating policy and consulting with relevant clinical staff</p> <p>Cost of AV Department converting format of existing policy to word format which can then be updated</p> <p>Printing costs for posters/leaflets/handbooks as considered to be most appropriate, once policy updated</p>
<p>Step 7 Monitoring Arrangements</p>	<p>Will be via adverse incident forms, complaints and compliments as well as specific audits such as audit of pressure ulcer audit</p>
<p>Step 8 Action Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get existing policy document converted by AV dept so it can be updated (currently read-only) • Write the updated policy in the new Trust format which will mean including outcomes, making the policy statement more succinct and putting more information into appendices. • Involve relevant experts, including neonates to update appropriate sections • Concentrate some effort on making sure wound dressing selection is easy to use for staff in the absence of a dedicated tissue viability nursing resource. This may include producing information in alternative formats eg poster, laminated sheets, leaflets and consulting with staff to see if these are easier to use than present policy format. • Consider development of Tissue Viability website to include links to other useful sources of information increase awareness of policy • Discussion with Wilfred re considerations listed in section 2 to see if any other action needs to be taken • Plan further meeting to discuss policy for end May 2008

Signed and dated: ___ Jane Holden, Lead Nurse for Plastic Surgery and Krzysztof Gebhardt, Clinical Nurse Specialist for Pressure Sore Prevention 10/4/08

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