

Pressure Ulcers: Essential Systems for Quality Care

The following information suggests areas to focus on while evaluating facility processes for preventing and treating pressure ulcers.

Systems to Review

Key Interventions to Reduce Pressure Ulcers

Pressure Ulcer Risk Assessment to Identify High Risk Residents

- Evaluate the facility admission/ readmission risk assessment tools to determine if they include all the recommended domains of assessment.
 - Standardize the risk assessment process during admission.
 - Determine appropriate times other than during admission process to complete risk assessment (i.e. change in status).
 - Designate responsibility and accountability for admission risk assessment.
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Pressure Relief

- Repositioning protocols.
 - Repositioning documentation tools.
 - Use positioning/ pressure relief specialty products.
 - Designate responsibility and accountability for monitoring of the process.
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Organizational Commitment to Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Treatment

- Identify key staff to participate in an interdisciplinary workgroup.
 - Analyze current pressure ulcer prevention and management practices.
 - Articulate and implement a standard of practice.
 - Establish accountability for pressure ulcer prevention and management.
 - Provide appropriate education to physician and nursing staff.
 - Implement plan to evaluate the quality of the pressure ulcer prevention and management program.
 - Designate responsibility and accountability for pressure ulcer prevention program oversight.
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Institute Prevention Program Based on Accepted Guidelines (e.g. AHCP, AMDA)

- Identify a process for and accountability for a nutritional assessment.
 - Evaluate skin care products and inservice staff on the facility choice.
 - Identify process for and accountability for a mobility assessment.
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Develop a Plan of Care

- Designate responsibility and accountability for care plan development.
 - Ensure that care plan adheres to accepted guidelines.
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This material was developed by the QIO program for CMS' NHQI and is intended as general information. Any individual using the material must consider the possibility of human error, changes in medical sciences, and the need to use clinical judgment in each specific case.