

Pressure Injuries



The importance of preventing pressure injuries

A pressure injury is damage to the skin and/or underlying soft tissue when pressure is applied to an area for too long. Pressure injuries most commonly develop in patients who are not moving about (such as those in a bed or a wheelchair), but can also arise from medical devices such as oxygen masks, nasogastric feeding tubes and casts.

Pressure injuries are often preventable. If left untreated, pressure injuries can lead to tissue damage and an open sore that makes the area a risk for an infection.

What we are doing

For all pediatric patients, pressure injury risk is assessed on admission and prevention strategies implemented as part of standard care. Patients who are found to be at higher risk of developing a pressure injury will be monitored more closely. The patient's health care team is also monitoring to ensure that we are carrying out practices that have been shown to prevent pressure injuries from occurring. These injury prevention practices include:

- conducting skin assessments at least once a day
- rotating medical devices that touch the patient on a regular basis
- repositioning patients regularly as required
- providing appropriate bed surfaces
- providing barrier creams to protect the skin, and
- keeping the skin clean and dry.

Results

Pressure injuries are classified according to how severe the injury is. We are in the process of measuring our baseline rates of pressure injuries, measured in terms of incidents per 1,000 patient days. Once we have established our baseline, we will be tracking the rates on a monthly basis.

Our current goal is 100% compliance to reach our goal of zero harm.

▶ To learn more, visit ahs.ca/SafestTogether

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