

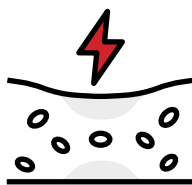
PRESSURE ULCERS, STAGE 3+

CASE FOR CHANGE

Pressure ulcers cost

\$9.1-\$11.6 BILLION

per year in the United States. Individual patient care ranges from \$20,900 to \$151,000 per pressure ulcer.¹



Although pressure ulcers are preventable in most every case, the prevalence of pressure ulcers in health care facilities is increasing. 2.5 million Patients per year are affected by pressure ulcers. About 60,000 patients die as a direct result of a pressure ulcer each year.¹

◀ [Pressure Injury Prevention Points](#)

◀ [AHRQ Tools and Resources](#)

Link includes tools for:

- Pressure Ulcer Prevention Pathway (3A)
- Elements of a Comprehensive Skin Assessment (3B)
- Pressure Ulcer Identification Pocket Pad (3C)
- The Braden Scale for Predicting Pressure Risk (3D)
- Care Plan (3F)
- Patient and Family Education Booklet (3G)
- Assigning Responsibilities for Using Best Practice Bundle (4A)
- Staff Roles (4B)
- Assessing Staff Education and Training (4C)

TOOLS & RESOURCES

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Do you know what your current data reflects for your hospital's pressure ulcer rate?
- Do you see any pressure ulcers not being appropriately documented on admission? If so, is this due to lack of documentation or that documentation is not being charted in the appropriate place so that it is properly coded?
- Do you have a nurse champion and/or a wound care nurse for pressure ulcers?
- When a pressure ulcer occurs, is a root causes analysis completed?
 - If yes, do you see any trends?
- Does your staff know the frequency with which a skin assessment should be performed?
- If a staff nurse has a concern regarding a possible pressure ulcer forming who do they notify?
- Do you see any specific interventions to prevent pressure ulcers not being completed on a regular basis?
 - Ex. – Scheduled turns not being completed?
- What have you implemented or are planning to implement regarding pressure ulcer prevention?
- What barriers have you encountered and how have you addressed them?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What stage of pressure ulcers are being counted towards the HIIN measure?

- The HIIN measure is specifically looking at hospital acquired Stage III, Stage IV and unstageable pressure ulcers

Q: How is this information gathered?

- This measure is pulled from IPOP or Claims data, based off specific ICD codes

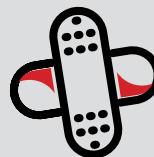
Q: What are the most current recommendations for pressure ulcer prevention?

- Complete a risk assessment on admission and once a shift
- Consider a 2 RN skin assessment as an option for improvement
- Establish a bowel and bladder program for patients with incontinence, use barrier cream to protect the skin
- Use moisturizers for dry skin
- Identify and correct factors compromising protein/calorie intake consistent with goals of care
- Assess for repositioning, use appropriate mattress and chair cushions. Use appropriate lifting devices, use pillows or foam wedges to keep bony prominences from direct contact with each other
- Use devices that eliminate pressure on the heels
- Educate patient and family on pressure ulcer prevention
- Use no more than 3 layers (clothing, sheets) to aid in friction and shear reduction

MEASURE

Numerator:

- Number of inpatients with ICD-9/10 codes for pressure ulcer AND secondary ICD 9/10 diagnosis code(s) for Stage III, Stage IV or unstageable pressure ulcer, non-POA



Denominator:

- Number of discharges for acute care, skilled nursing and swing bed patients

Source:

1. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: Preventing Pressure Ulcers in Hospitals. <https://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/systems/hospital/pressureulcertoolkit/putool1.html>

Last Updated: September 2017