

Skin Safety Protocol: Risk Assessment and Prevention of Pressure Ulcers

Protocol, Description and Highlights

The Pressure Ulcer Risk Assessment and Pressure Ulcer Prevention Protocol and Skin Safety Plan were merged into one protocol. The new name is Skin Safety Protocol: Risk Assessment and Prevention of Pressure Ulcers.

The clinical highlights were reviewed and revised to include the five key points of the protocol: risk assessment, skin inspection, skin safety plan, communication and documentation.

New Priority Aims and Measures were developed to better align with the protocol.

* Definitions and Specifications: under age 16 was deleted from the Braden Q definition, due to the validation studies used in the Braden Q. Pressure reduction and pressure relief were removed from the definition list, as pressure redistribution encompasses both. This was based on a recommendation from the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel.

A high level protocol was written as a one page take away and further information can be read in the footnotes.

- 1) Outpatient and Inpatient were merged under one footnote for risk assessment.
 - * Information regarding operative procedures and increased risk for pressure ulcers was added with new references.
 - * Samples of other validated risk assessment tools were included in the protocol with updated references.
 - * Age requirements for the Braden Scale for predictions pressure score risk and the Braden Scale were clarified.
- 3) *A statement regarding activity was added to the minimize pressure sub bullet.
- 5) * Communication regarding status should also occur when transporting patient between departments was added.

Priority Aims & Suggest Measures, Measurement Specifications

Aims for risk assessment, skin inspection and skin safety plan were added.

The aim decrease the percent of incidence of pressure ulcer development in patients lying flat during surgery and/or prolonged diagnostic procedure for 2 hours or more was deleted.

New measures were added for decrease the incidence of pressure ulcer development.

Measurement specifications were added for aim 3 - all patients will have a head-to-toe skin inspection.

Support for Implementation

A support for implementation section was developed for the Skin Safety Protocol: Risk Assessment and Prevention of Pressure Ulcers.

Tool kit contents were listed under tool kits.

**An asterisk indicates any changes in clinical practice recommendations*