Editor’s note: MO LANE is resuming its monthly pressure-ulcer tip service. The following tip originally appeared in January 2009, and has been updated with current information.

Pressure ulcers hurt everyone. More than one in twenty Missouri nursing homes residents develop pressure ulcers which cause pain and suffering. For nursing homes, the extra staff hours and medical supplies come at a time when money could be spent in other areas.

Most crucial to pressure ulcer prevention is the consistent use of a standardized risk assessment tool such as the Braden or Norton. The Braden tool is available at www.bradenscale.com. Current standards recommend the risk assessment be completed within 24 hours of admission or readmission, weekly for the first four weeks and quarterly thereafter and with a change in the residents status. To supplement the information gained on the Braden, we suggest a visual inspection of the resident’s skin and determining their risk for dehydration /skin tears. Once the risk assessment is completed nurses must make use of that information and implement preventative measures to protect the residents skin. Work with your nurses to help them understand their role in prevention.

Using these tools will help your organization decide who needs prevention interventions, allowing you to use your resources for where they are most needed. Further information about pressure ulcer reduction is available on www.primaris.org, www.nhqualitycampaign.org, www.leadingagemissouri.org, and www.mohealthcare.com.

For more information:
Attend the Nursing Home Administrator Oktoberfest!
Oct. 3-5
Radisson Hotel
Branson, Missouri
Register at mlnmonursing.org/oktoberfest

For more information, contact a MO LANE Planning Committee Member:
Department of Health & Senior Services • Primaris • State LTC Ombudsman • MCS • Missouri League for Nursing • Missouri Center for Patient Safety • QIPMO • LeadingAge Missouri • Missouri Association of Nursing Home Administrators • Missouri Health Care Association • Missouri Board of Nursing Home Administrators • AMDA • National Association of Health Care Assistants • Missouri Veteran’s Commission • Missouri Pain Initiative • Heartland Kidney Network • Missouri Hospice and Palliative Care Association

MO-12-33-PU July 2012 This material was prepared by Primaris, a Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.