

Pressure Ulcer Prevention

PUP returns: Assessing pressure-ulcer risk saves your skin

Tip 1

*PUP
protects your
skin*

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:

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