

Pressure Ulcer Algorithm

Person with a Pressure Ulcer

Reassess

- If the wound is healable and the surface area has not reduced 20-30% over a 3-4 week period, reassess the ENTIRE patient again
- If the person and his/her wound is being managed according to best practice and the wound surface area has failed to reduce in size as expected, consider a referral to an ET or Wound Care Specialist
- May need to consider adjunctive therapies, skin substitutes/grfts/flaps, biologic dressings (healable wounds only)

Assess

- The Initial Wound Assessment Tool
- Braden Scale for Pressure Ulcer Risk Tool
- Nestle Mini Nutritional Assessment Form
- Interdisciplinary Pressure Ulcer Contributing Factors Assessment Tool
- NPUAP PUSH Tool
- NPUAP Staging System for Pressure Ulcers
- Determining Healability Tool

Moisture Balance and Dressing Selection

- Promote a moist wound healing environment in healable wounds
- Provide a clean, dry environment for maintenance/non-healable wounds
- Consider using the dressing selection table and cleansing enablers to choose cleansing and dressing methods

Treat the Cause

- Manage/reduce pressure, friction and/or shear

Treat Co-Factors

- Consider moisture/incontinence, nutrition, mobility, medications, lifestyle factors, underlying chronic/acute disease

Infection/Inflammation

- Assess using Bioburden Assessment Tool
- Treat using Bacterial Burden in Chronic Wounds chart/consider topical antimicrobials for critically colonized wounds, and topical and systemic antimicrobials for infected wounds
- Rule-out osteomyelitis

Address Person's Concerns

- Comprehensive Assessment of Chronic Pain in Wounds
- SWRWCP's Modified WHO Pain Ladder
- Psychosocial and Quality of Life (QoL)
- Cardiff Wound Impact QoL Questionnaire (optional)
- Adherence

Educate

- My Pressure Ulcer

Debridement

- Debride (within your scope) non-viable tissue in healable wounds only, except stable heel ulcers covered in eschar
- Do NOT debride maintenance or non-healable wounds unless you have the knowledge/skill to debride non-viable tissue



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