

It Takes a Team to Reduce Pressure Ulcers

Role of Administrator/Director of Nursing – Leadership and Knowledge

- Establish a wound care program in your facility and make it a priority.
- Review wound care regulations (F-314) and relevant MDS 3.0 coding.
- Educate all staff annually and more frequently as needed using up-to-date standardized practice of care.
- Select members of the interdisciplinary team (i.e. treatment nurse, nurse manager, nursing assistant, dietician, physical therapist, care plan coordinator, MDS coordinator, director of nursing, and physician/nurse practitioner).
 - Initiate weekly/monthly meetings.
 - Review goals and purpose and educate all members on policies and procedures.
 - Review new wounds and wound status of all existing wounds.
 - Update care and treatment plans. Ensure adequate documentation.
 - Identify barriers to delivery of best practice on units.
 - Reinforce and reward positive unit outcomes.
- Provide necessary resources such as wound consultants, equipment, and supplies.
- Make sure the right processes are in place to achieve success.
- Hold people accountable for their roles and care practices.
- Provide support for staff and a conducive environment.
- Be an active member of the team.

Role of Nurse Manager – Knowledge and Supervision

- Make sure staff conduct skin checks and timely risk assessments and follow-through on interventions.
- Make sure frontline staff are turning properly and there is an effective system for accountability.
- Ensure support surfaces are used properly.
- Ensure correct and timely dressing changes are being done.
- Make sure all unit staff are educated and up-to-date on treatments and prevention.

Role of Wound Care Nurse – Expertise and Setting Standards

- Demonstrate expert knowledge and experience, attend conferences, and read journals for most current standards of practice. Know the latest products and trends in care.
- Be a patient advocate.
- Communicate resident and staff needs to administration.
- Be a liaison with the medical staff.
- Establish protocols and formulas for staff.
- Document accurately and carefully to protect yourself and the facility in case of litigation.
- Know your local hospital and community resources and get help when needed.

Role of Staff Nurse – Knowledge and Frontline Accountability

- Establish a communication process such as the INTERACT Stop and Watch tool or check sheet for nursing assistants to report early redness, worsening of a wound, or low dietary intake.
- Be the wound champion on your unit. Show enthusiasm and give positive feedback for good outcomes.
- Make sure wound care classes are mandatory and provide floor support when staff attend classes.
- Be sure that all staff know and follow policies and procedures.
- Be proactive with prevention. Focus on the basics of turning, positioning, and dietary intake.
- Document daily and weekly skin assessments accurately.
- Make nursing assistants accountable for turning, positioning, and early detection.