

Partnering to reduce pressure injuries in New Zealand Update 3: August 2017



Joint agency approach

The Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC), the Health Quality & Safety Commission (the Commission), and the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) are working together and with the sector to reduce pressure injuries in New Zealand.

ACC is leading the development of guidance, resources and tools for the sector on the prevention, and management of pressure injuries.

The Ministry is providing clinical oversight and support for engagement with clinical leaders. An ongoing focus is developing a culture and infrastructure that supports pressure injury prevention, promoting a multidisciplinary approach and improving collaboration between sectors. In 2016 and 2017 the Ministry, through HealthCERT, will focus on pressure injury management in aged residential care.

The Commission is leading two specific pieces of work. The first is to support a nationally consistent approach to the measurement and surveillance of pressure injuries across the sector, starting with the in-hospital setting. The second is identifying patient experiences of care / stories that the sector can learn from, and which will inform future co-design opportunities.

ACC update

Implementing the 'Guiding Principles For Pressure Injury Prevention and Management In NZ' (the guide)

The guide was launched at the Wound Care Society Conference in May 2017 and is available here (<https://www.acc.co.nz/assets/provider/acc7758-pressure-injury-prevention.pdf>).

ACC is now focusing on two projects to support the implementation of the guide.

The first involves developing tools/ resources to support the guide's implementation. ACC has been in communication with a wide group of stakeholders, including anyone they've liaised with or consulted with in the past, anyone that attended last year's regional meetings and anyone who provided feedback during the development of the guide, asking for feedback on what resources / tools are needed. Further feedback on this is welcome – please email Treatment Injury Prevention - Pressure Injuries (pressureinjuryprevention@acc.co.nz).

The second project involves working with DHBs and their regional aged residential care and community care providers to improve pressure injury prevention and management. The guide will be used as the foundation for this work. The intention is to take a phased approach across New Zealand over the next two to three years with approximately five DHB projects being funded initially. The expectation is that these projects will develop or build on existing pressure injury work to reduce PIs across the entire population within the DHBs' boundaries, across all provider types (ARC, community, in-hospital). The first step for participating DHBs will be an assessment of need / the current state across the DHB region. A comprehensive evaluation process will be used for

each phase with subsequent phases being modified based on the evaluation results. ACC has been in communication with DHB directors of nursing regarding this work.

Investigation into pressure injuries and ACC's serious injury clients

The majority of ACC's serious injury clients have impaired mobility and / or loss of sensation from conditions such as spinal cord injuries or traumatic brain injuries. These clients are at high risk of pressure injuries, that often become severe and reoccur. Serious injury clients require a tailored approach to preventing and managing their pressure injuries. ACC's Pressure Injury team is going to undertake investigative work that will explore how the incidence and severity of pressure injuries can be reduced in these clients, working with both the clients themselves, and their family, whanau and carers, and agencies that provide services to these clients.

Commission update

Measurement of pressure injury prevalence

On 13 October 2016, the Commission published the first deliverable from its 'Measurement of pressure injury prevalence' workstream. The report entitled *Developing a national approach to the measurement and reporting of pressure injuries*, which was informed by a multi-disciplinary advisory group, can be found here: <http://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/other-topics/publications-and-resources/publication/2658/>.

The report proposes a preferred method for data measurement and reporting: skin checks via monthly random sampling with a minimum sample size of five patients per ward/unit. This sampling method enables an ongoing focus on quality improvement and provides enough data to evaluate the effectiveness of quality improvement initiatives.

Southern, Capital and Coast, Whanganui and Waikato DHBs are working with the Commission to test, refine and implement the proposed methodology. The output from this will be a 'How To Guide' that will be a companion document to the October 2016 methodology report. The guide will detail the learnings from the four pilot sites and will be designed to ensure that other DHBs can use it to support their implementation of the measurement approach/ pressure injury quality improvement projects. Publication of the guide is planned for late 2017.

The outcomes of this work will also inform the work to design national process and outcome quality and safety measures (QSMs) for national in-hospital pressure injury surveillance. The intention is to consult with the sector on potential pressure injury QSMs in late 2017 and early 2018.

If you would like to know more please email Gabrielle Nicholson at (gabrielle.nicholson@hqsc.govt.nz).

Consumer co-design/ health literacy

The second workstream being led by the Commission is a consumer co-design/health literacy project.

Initially, the Commission is focusing on developing patient/ consumer stories which the wider sector can learn from. This is progressing well and a set of five, with a spread of hospital, aged residential care and home care all represented, is in the final stages of development. Three stories have been published to date and can be found here: <https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/pressure-injury-prevention/patient-stories/>.

If you have a story that you think would assist us with this project the Commission would like to hear from you. Please email Gabrielle Nicholson (gabrielle.nicholson@hqsc.govt.nz).

National Adverse Events Reporting Policy 2017

The Commission would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness about its recently released revised Adverse Event Policy, and associated material, which can be found here: <https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/adverse-events/national-adverse-events-policy/>.

A Severity Assessment Code (SAC) example is included as one of the guiding documents and can be found here: <https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/adverse-events/publications-and-resources/publication/2938/>. Please note that pressure injuries Grade 3, 4, or unstageable are included as examples of SAC 2 events. The Commission strongly encourages the reporting of these via the Adverse Event reporting process for learning and sharing purposes. This will also help the sector form a more accurate picture of the extent of harm being experienced by consumers and ensure effort is targeted at the areas of highest need.

Ministry of Health update

The Ministry was pleased to be involved in the development of the *Guiding Principles for Pressure Injury Prevention and Management in New Zealand*, launched by ACC in May (see ACC's update above). The guide aims to enable healthcare organisations to reduce the incidence of pressure injuries among people in their care and support the long-term health and wellbeing of all New Zealanders. ACC is the lead agency for the guide, which has been written by an Expert Panel with representatives from across the sector.

As stated in the guide, for pressure injury prevention to be effective, all members of the health care team need to be involved across the health and disability sector, working in partnership with those who use health and disability services and their family and whanau. Implementation of the guiding principles will require an ongoing and shared commitment. The Ministry will continue to work with partner agencies and the sector to support improved clinical documentation, risk assessment and management of care, raising awareness and making best use of quality data.

Pressure injury management in aged residential care

In November 2015 HealthCERT agreed that Pressure Injury Prevention and Management would be a focus in the aged residential care sector during 2016 and 2017. Providers were asked to report pressure injuries stage 3 and above to the Ministry of Health (HealthCERT) via the 'section 31' reporting process, and auditing agencies were asked to gather defined pressure injury information during audit.

The resulting data includes audits undertaken at 528 aged care facilities (of a total of an estimated 670 certified providers). The audit report data is currently being analysed. Data includes the number of pressure injuries at the facility at the time of audit, the stage of the injury and where the injury was acquired. In addition, seven areas of practice were considered, including: operating policy, internal audit, (staff) meeting minutes, adverse event reporting, annual training, (access to) equipment and staff interview.

Updates on the progress of this work is provided in the quarterly HealthCERT Bulletin, which has attracted increasing readership over the past 18 months. See: <http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/certification-health-care-services/healthcert-bulletin>

Stop pressure injury day 17 November 2017

Stop Pressure Injury Day in November each year is one opportunity to raise awareness across the sector. In partnership with the New Zealand Wound Care Society, the Ministry, ACC and the Commission have begun planning for this year's activities. For more information on this year's Stop Pressure Injury Day, visit the New Zealand Wound Care Society website:

<https://www.nzwcs.org.nz/resources/stop-pi-day>

We want to hear from you

We are delighted with the willingness of individuals and professional groups to be involved and work with us on bringing a national focus to pressure injury prevention in New Zealand. Your feedback and input is important to us. Please contact us if you'd like further information or want to contribute in any way.

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