

**Partnering to reduce pressure injuries in New Zealand  
Update 2: April – October 2016**



## **Joint agency approach**

The Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC), the Health Quality & Safety Commission, and the Ministry of Health 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, assessment and treatment of pressure injuries. In the 2016–17 financial year they are developing principles to inform the sector's pressure injury prevention activities. The second half of the year will be focused on the development of a pressure injury prevention toolkit (or similar), which will be a repository of resources and tools that the sector can use to prevent, assess and treat 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 2016–17 the Ministry, through HealthCert, will focus on pressure injury management in aged residential care.

In 2016–17 the Commission is leading two specific pieces of work which are:

- measurement of pressure injury prevalence
- consumer co-design/health literacy.

## **ACC update**

### ***Pressure injury guidance***

The purpose of the pressure injury guidance document is to provide, in one coherent set, the principles which should inform pressure injury prevention activities.

Work to develop the evidence-based guidance document is continuing. The expert panel has met three times and the document is now in its fourth draft. The panel are providing comprehensive feedback to ensure that it is clear, accurate, and fit for the New Zealand context. The document will be shared with the sector, with feedback welcome, prior to finalisation. For more information please email Sean Bridge ([sean.bridge@acc.co.nz](mailto:sean.bridge@acc.co.nz)).

## **Regional workshops**

June and July saw five regional pressure injuries workshops delivered in Christchurch, Wellington, Palmerston North, Rotorua, and Auckland. Approximately 90 people from district health boards (DHBs), aged residential care and community care across the country met to understand and inform the direction of the guidance, share initiatives from their organisations, and discuss the challenges and opportunities for the next steps in reducing pressure injuries.

Fantastic information was gathered at these workshops and this has been pulled together to assist with understanding common themes and issues across the country. This will help ACC, the Commission and the Ministry understand where to focus efforts to reduce pressure injuries.

## **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 *Developing a national approach to the measurement and reporting of pressure injuries* can be found here: <http://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/other-topics/publications-and-resources/publication/2658/>.

The report outlines a potential national approach to the measurement and reporting of pressure injuries.

It summarises the work undertaken so far and gives an indicative programme of work over the next one to two years, including methodology development and implementation across DHBs and other health care settings.

The Commission engaged Sapere Research Group and a small group of experts from across the sector to develop the report. They were asked to:

- describe the current approach to measuring and reporting pressure injuries in New Zealand
- support development of a methodology to assess pressure injury prevalence, which can be used in hospitals, residential care and home care settings.

The Commission challenges health care professionals to keep pressure injury prevention an organisational priority, and consider how the proposals in this report can be implemented and/or strengthened.

The report proposes a preferred method for data measurement and reporting: 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.

The Commission is establishing a steering group of experts and sector representatives to supporting testing and implementing the proposed approach. We will work with a small number of willing DHB hospitals to refine the methodology, and then support spread of the proposed methodology across the sector, being mindful of existing systems in aged residential and community care settings. The approach will

consider the infrastructure required to support the sector by streamlining and minimising the burden of reporting.

If you would like to know more please email Gabrielle Nicholson at ([gabrielle.nicholson@hqsc.govt.nz](mailto: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, we will focus on developing case studies/stories which we and the wider sector can learn from. The Commission will work with some willing providers and consumers (patients/residents) to develop consumer-focused resources and tools to fill any gaps identified by the case studies. The intention is that these will improve the partnership with, and involvement of, consumers in their pressure injury care. We hope the results of this work will be applicable for hospital, aged residential and community care.

If you have a story or case study that you think would assist us with this project we'd like to hear from you. Please email Gabrielle Nicholson ([gabrielle.nicholson@hqsc.govt.nz](mailto:gabrielle.nicholson@hqsc.govt.nz)).

### **Ministry of Health update**

#### **Clinical practice**

HealthCert continues to profile pressure injuries in aged residential care, through audit processes and information in sector Bulletins. There has been positive feedback from the sector on the usefulness of this focus, with opportunities taken up for learning and for review of policies and procedures.

#### **STOP Pressure Injury Day**

Planning is underway for STOP Pressure Injury Day on 17 November 2016. The New Zealand Wound Care Society, in partnership with ACC, the Commission and the Ministry, will provide resources to support local awareness raising activities. For more information visit the [New Zealand Wound Care Society website](#).

### **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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We will provide another update early in 2017.