

What you can do:

✓ Move, move!

- Keep moving as often as you can. Even small movements help.
- Change your position frequently when in bed or sitting in a chair. Talk to your healthcare professional about position changes.
- If you are unable to move yourself, the staff will help you to change your position regularly.

✓ Look after your skin

- Advise staff if you have any tenderness or soreness over a bony area or if you notice any change in skin colour, blistered or broken skin.
- Keep your skin and bedding dry. Let staff know if your clothes or bedding are damp.
- Special equipment such as air mattresses and cushions may be used to reduce the pressure in particular places.
- Avoid massaging your skin over bony parts of the body.
- Use a mild skin cleanser and moisturiser.

✓ Eat a healthy diet

- Enjoy protein foods first (e.g. meat, chicken, fish or eggs) as part of a varied diet.
- If eating less than usual or losing weight without trying, your healthcare professional may recommend nutrition supplements.
- Talk to staff if you are worried about your fluid intake.

For more information, speak with your healthcare professional.

www.clinicalexcellence.qld.gov.au




Watch this video about how to prevent pressure injuries.

Patients, families and carers are encouraged to be involved in discussions and decisions about the prevention and management of pressure injuries.

Developed by Patient Safety and Quality, Clinical Excellence Queensland in conjunction with clinicians and consumers.

This patient information brochure assists to meet a number of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards including:

 Partnering with Consumers – this publication was developed with feedback from consumers and/or carers

 Comprehensive Care – ensuring patients, families and carers are provided with information on preventing pressure injuries

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Queensland Health

Pressure Injury Prevention

Keeping bedsores at bay!

Information for patients, families and carers



Who is at risk? Any one! Any time! Any age!

What is a pressure injury?

A pressure injury is also known as a pressure ulcer, pressure sore or bedsore. They are caused by unrelieved pressure and/or shear forces on any part of the body. Anytime you lie or sit down in the same position for a period of time, pressure is applied to different parts of your body. Any object that has continuous contact with your skin, including medical devices, tubing and catheters has the potential to cause a pressure injury.

Why are pressure injuries a problem?

A pressure injury may look minor, such as redness or a change in colour to the skin, but they can hide more damage under the skin surface. A pressure injury can develop quickly, cause significant pain, become infected, leave scars and may delay your recovery by weeks or months.

Who is at risk?

Any person of any age may be at risk. Factors that may increase the risk of developing a pressure injury include:

- general poor health or weakness
- limited mobility
- poor nutrition and hydration
- unintentional weight loss or weight gain
- lack of sensory perception e.g. diabetes, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis
- urinary and faecal incontinence
- excess moisture or dryness of skin
- past history of a pressure injury
- the use of medical devices, tubing and catheters.

What to look for?

- red/purple/blue skin
- blister
- swelling
- dry patches
- shiny areas
- warm or cool areas
- pain/tenderness, including around tubing, plaster casts, medical equipment.



Let staff know if you notice any warning signs or if you have any questions or concerns.

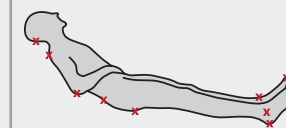
Skin inspection should happen on admission and when there is a change in skin or medical condition.

If you haven't had a daily skin inspection, speak with your healthcare professional.

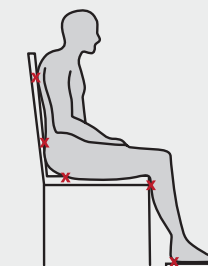
Where to look?

Pressure injuries usually occur over bony areas—especially the heels, elbows, hips, buttocks and tail bone but can occur anywhere there is continued pressure to the skin. The diagram below illustrates places on your body at risk of pressure injury.

When sitting up in bed



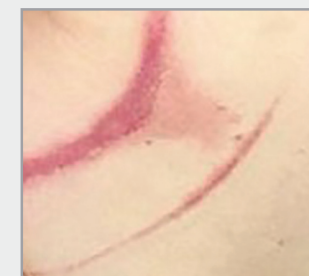
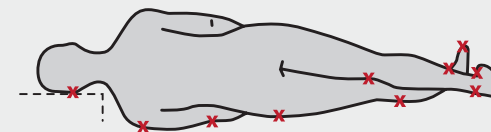
Sitting



When lying on your back



When lying on your side



Red pressure injury line from tubing