

ALL healthcare providers have a role to play in preventing pressure ulcers

Pressure ulcers...

- ✓ Occur in all healthcare locations (hospitals, residential facilities, and community care settings)
- ✓ Cause significant suffering for patients, distress for families, and challenges for healthcare providers
- ✓ Represent a large expense to the healthcare system as it can take months for a pressure ulcer to heal
- ✓ May be a sign of issues with nursing staff levels or assignments, equipment, or training
- ✓ Are considered a measure of overall quality of patient care
- ✓ **ARE MOSTLY PREVENTABLE!**

Let's take the pressure off!

BC PSLs worked with the **Provincial Nursing Skin & Wound Committee** to identify information that should be gathered about pressure ulcers to promote learning and improvements in care, and to develop a specialized reporting form. With a greater understanding about **why** and **how** pressure ulcers occur, we can identify the **most effective prevention** measures, make sure they are being consistently applied and support healthcare providers with their patient care efforts. *For example*, it's important to identify patients who are likely to develop pressure ulcers – upon admission and periodically during their stay – and use the **Braden Scale** assessment tool to predict the risk so that preventative measures can be taken. Reporting will help determine where more attention needs to be paid so that practices like use of the Braden Scale become the norm across all settings.

New! BC PSLs Landing Page and Pressure Ulcer Icon



Where can I find the new form?

You can find the new **Pressure Ulcer Safety Event Report Form** in the **usual place** you go to report a patient safety event, such as your Health Authority's PSLs webpage.

What should I report? Any pressure ulcer, no matter what stage, should be reported as soon as it is discovered. Reporting a pressure ulcer provides healthcare and senior management teams with the opportunity to understand why a pressure ulcer occurred and what pressure redistribution interventions need to be added to the care plan to prevent or minimize the pressure ulcer - *it is all about learning what is needed to ensure quality care!*

What if someone else has already reported the pressure ulcer? If you're not sure, please report! It is better to report twice than not at all! You can also check with your manager to see if a report has already been submitted. BC PSLs Central Office will resolve issues with data and will create reports that can be used by managers to share information with staff and prevent duplicate reporting.

Where can I find more information?

Visit our website www.bcpsls.ca, or contact the Skin and Wound Specialist at your Health Authority.