NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

NICE Pathways

Pressure ulcers overview

NICE Pathways bring together all NICE guidance, quality standards and other NICE information on a specific topic.

NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online. They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this pathway see:

http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/pressure-ulcers
Pathway last updated: 27 March 2017

This document contains a single pathway diagram and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.

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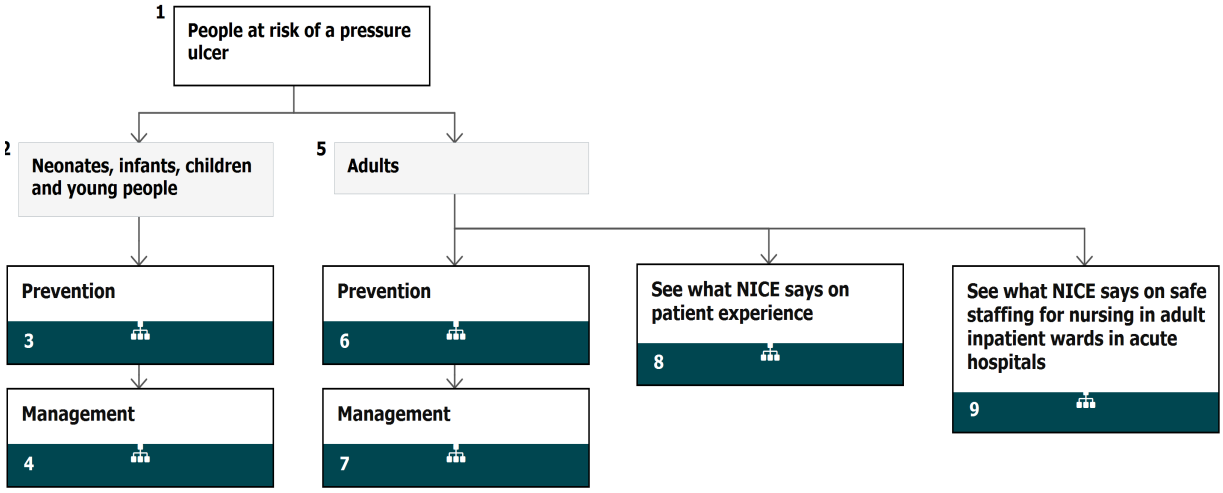

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1 People at risk of a pressure ulcer

Be aware that all patients are potentially at risk of developing a pressure ulcer.

Risk definitions

This guidance uses the terms 'at risk' and 'at high risk' to identify people who may develop a pressure ulcer. For the purposes of these recommendations:

- Adults considered to be **at risk** of developing a pressure ulcer are those who, after assessment using clinical judgement and/or a validated risk assessment tool, are considered to be at risk of developing a pressure ulcer.
- Adults considered to be **at high risk** of developing a pressure ulcer will usually have multiple risk factors (for example, significantly limited mobility, nutritional deficiency, inability to reposition themselves, significant cognitive impairment) identified during risk assessment with or without a validated risk assessment tool. Please note that the examples given are not exhaustive. Adults with a history of pressure ulcers or a current pressure ulcer are also considered to be at high risk.
- Neonates, infants, children and young people considered to be **at risk** are those who, after assessment using clinical judgement and/or a validated risk assessment tool, are considered to be at risk of developing a pressure ulcer.
- Neonates, infants, children and young people considered to be **at high risk** of developing a pressure ulcer will usually have multiple risk factors (for example, significantly limited mobility, nutritional deficiency, inability to reposition themselves, significant cognitive impairment) identified during risk assessment with or without a validated risk assessment tool. Please note that the examples given are not exhaustive. Those with a history of pressure ulcers or a current pressure ulcer are also considered to be at high risk.

2 Neonates, infants, children and young people

No additional information

3 Prevention

See Pressure ulcers / Preventing pressure ulcers in neonates, infants, children and young people

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4 Management

See Pressure ulcers / Managing pressure ulcers in neonates, infants, children and young people

5 Adults

No additional information

6 Prevention

See Pressure ulcers / Preventing pressure ulcers in adults

7 Management

See Pressure ulcers / Managing pressure ulcers in adults

8 See what NICE says on patient experience

See Patient experience in adult NHS services

9 See what NICE says on safe staffing for nursing in adult inpatient wards in acute hospitals

See Safe staffing for nursing in adult inpatient wards in acute hospitals

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Sources

Pressure ulcers (2014) NICE guideline CG179

Your responsibility

The guidance in this pathway represents the view of NICE, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. Those working in the NHS, local authorities, the wider public, voluntary and community sectors and the private sector should take it into account when carrying out their professional, managerial or voluntary duties. Implementation of this guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and/or providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guidance, in their local context, in light of their duties to avoid unlawful discrimination and to have regard to promoting equality of opportunity. Nothing in this guidance should be interpreted in a way which would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

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