

## Pressure ulcers overview

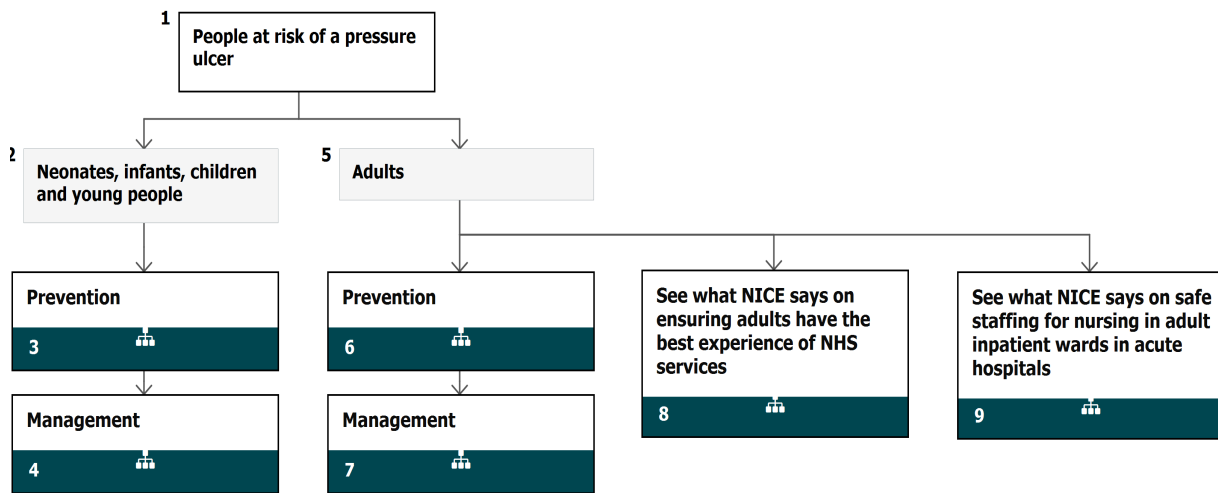
NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this NICE Pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/pressure-ulcers>

NICE Pathway last updated: 25 March 2019

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



## 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](#)

**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 ensuring adults have the best experience of NHS services**

[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](#)

## Sources

Pressure ulcers: prevention and management (2014) NICE guideline CG179

## Your responsibility

### Guidelines

The recommendations in this guideline represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, professionals and practitioners are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients or the people using their service. It is not mandatory to apply the recommendations, and the guideline does not override the responsibility to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual, in consultation with them and their families and carers or guardian.

Local commissioners and providers of healthcare have a responsibility to enable the guideline to be applied when individual professionals and people using services wish to use it. They should do so in the context of local and national priorities for funding and developing services, and in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with complying with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

### Technology appraisals

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, health professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients. The application of the recommendations in this interactive flowchart is at the discretion of health professionals and

their individual patients and do not override the responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or their carer or guardian.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to provide the funding required to enable the recommendations to be applied when individual health professionals and their patients wish to use it, in accordance with the NHS Constitution. They should do so in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

### **Medical technologies guidance, diagnostics guidance and interventional procedures guidance**

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, healthcare professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account. However, the interactive flowchart does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to implement the recommendations, in their local context, in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. Nothing in this interactive flowchart should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.