



# Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Policy

## 1. Background

This policy addresses the requirements for the prevention and management of pressure injuries for adult, newborn and paediatric inpatients and aged care residents within WA Country Health Service (WACHS) healthcare facilities.

A pressure injury is a localised injury to the skin and / or underlying tissue, usually over a bony prominence, as a result of pressure or pressure in combination with shear.<sup>1</sup>

Pressure Injuries can occur to patients of any age who have one or more of the following risk factors: immobility, older age, lack of sensory perception, poor nutrition or hydration, excess moisture or dryness, poor skin integrity, reduced blood flow, limited alertness or muscle spasms. Evidence-based strategies to prevent pressure injuries exist and should be applied if screening identifies that a patient is at risk.<sup>2</sup>

The most effective approach to pressure injury prevention and management includes<sup>3</sup>:

- timely screening and assessment of risk factors
- the engagement of patients and their carers
- implementation of an individualised care plan that is:
  - tailored to the individual and addresses their risk factors
  - focussed on prevention and optimising healing
  - comprehensive and utilises the multidisciplinary team
  - delivered by a suitable trained workforce
  - inclusive of access to suitable equipment and products.

## 2. Policy Statement

### 2.1 Clinical Practice – preventing and managing pressure injuries

WACHS clinical policy resources (e.g. forms, flowcharts, care plans) for specific patient groups supporting the requirements of the Pressure Injury Guideline are described in 2.1.5 – 2.1.8.

#### 2.1.1 Policy guidance

WACHS regions are paired to a Perth Metropolitan Health Service, known as their [linked hospital](#). Advice regarding the management of complex pressure injuries is available by contacting the Clinical Nurse Specialists for wound care at the respective linked hospital and by referring to their specific policy documents:

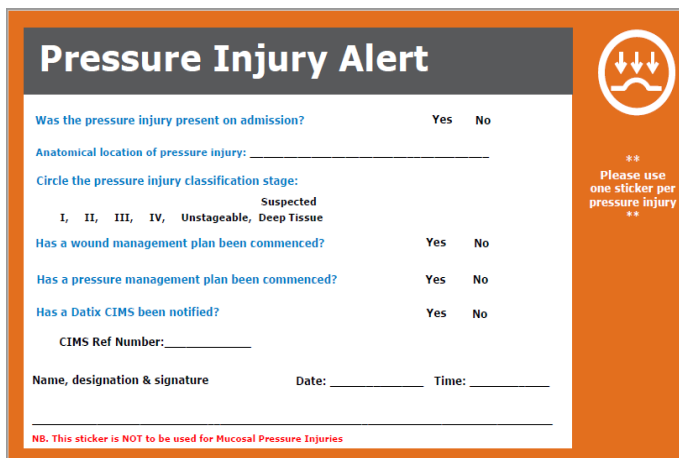
- FSHF [Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Policy](#)
- RPBG [Pressure Injury Prevention Clinical Practice Standard](#)
- SCGH [Pressure Injury Risk Management Nursing Practice Guideline](#)
- SCGH [Preventing and Managing Pressure Injuries Policy](#)

These policy documents are closely aligned with the “Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers/Injuries: Clinical Practice International Guideline 2019” (from the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel and Pan Pacific Pressure Injury Alliance).

### 2.1.2 Alert sticker

To support identification and management of pressure injuries the WA Health Pressure Injury alert sticker is to be used. This is

- Non-BOSSnet write sites: available via iProc 171703C
- BOSSnet write sites: available as an eForm.



The image shows a 'Pressure Injury Alert' sticker form. It has a dark grey header with the title 'Pressure Injury Alert' and a circular icon with three downward arrows. The form contains several questions with 'Yes' and 'No' options, a section for 'Anatomical location of pressure injury', a section for 'Circle the pressure injury classification stage' with options 'Suspected', 'I, II, III, IV, Unstageable, Deep Tissue', and a section for 'CIMS Ref Number'. At the bottom, there are fields for 'Name, designation & signature', 'Date', and 'Time'. A note at the bottom states 'NB. This sticker is NOT to be used for Mucosal Pressure Injuries'. On the right side, there is a vertical orange bar with a circular icon and the text 'Please use one sticker per pressure injury'.

### 2.1.3 Clinical handover

Processes supporting effective clinical handover of pressure injury risk are described in the Interhospital Clinical Handover Form Procedure, Allied Health Clinical Handover Policy and associated forms:

- MR184 Interhospital Clinical Handover
- MR184A Resident Handover Form
- MR184B Intrahospital handover Form (*in development*)
- MR184C Interhospital Maternal Form
- MR184P Interhospital transfer Neonatal Paediatric Form
- MR66 WACHS Clinical Handover (Allied Health) Form.

### 2.1.4 Adult patients

MR111 WACHS Nursing Admission, Screening and Assessment Tool– Adults incorporates a skin integrity assessment that provides baseline documentation of any injuries/issues occurring prior to admission and an initial Braden scale assessment of pressure injury risk. All patients require completion and documentation of a Braden scale assessment and a comprehensive skin assessment within 8 hours of admission.

The MR120 WACHS Adult nursing Care Plan ‘My Care Plan’ enables the documentation of patient care regarding pressure injury assessment and management including when reassessment of pressure injury risk has occurred and the type of pressure relieving device(s) in use.

The MR124 WACHS Braden Scale and Pressure Injury Risk Assessment form is used to document additional assessment(s) and guides clinicians as to suggested pressure relieving equipment and practice based on risk.

The MR124B WACHS Comprehensive Skin Assessment – completed within 8 hours of presentation generally (refer to the form for further guidance on exceptions). Reassess daily for patients at high risk (Braden score 12 or less) and whenever there is a change in the patient’s condition and upon transfer/discharge.

The MR122 WACHS Wound Assessment and Management Plan is used to document the management plan for any pressure injury present.

### 2.1.5 Residential aged care residents

The WACHS Residential Aged Care – Skin Care Flowchart describes the requirement for a completed assessment of pressure injury risk and a comprehensive skin assessment on admission to a residential facility.

Other resources to support pressure injury prevention and management for residential aged care residents comprise:

- MR124 WACHS Braden Scale and Pressure Injury Risk Assessment
- MR124B WACHS Comprehensive Skin Assessment

### 2.1.6 Maternity patients

WACHS endorses for use in clinical practice, the Women and Newborn Health Service Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Policy.

WACHS Midwifery/ Nursing staff are to undertake a pressure injury risk assessment using the [MR80A.1 Antenatal Risk Assessment for VTE Prophylaxis](#) and [MR80A.2 Postnatal Risk Assessment for VTE Prophylaxis](#) on admission, post birth and on discharge as described in the:

- MR 80 WACHS Vaginal birth postnatal Care Plan
- MR 81 WACHS Caesarean Postnatal Care Plan
- MR 70A WACHS antenatal inpatient Care Plan

### 2.1.7 Paediatric patients

WACHS endorses for use in clinical practice the Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Guideline.

Resources to support and guide pressure injury prevention and management for paediatric patients comprise:

- MR111P WACHS Paediatric Nursing Admission/Discharge Assessment
- WACHS MR124A WACHS Glamorgan Scale Paediatric and Neonatal Pressure Injury Risk Assessment form
- MR120P WACHS Paediatric Nursing Care Plan
- MR115 WACHS Paediatric Short Stay Medical Admission

### 2.1.8 Neonates

WACHS endorses for use in clinical practice the Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) Neonatology Skin Care Guideline (for use in WACHS Special Care Nurseries), utilising the MR124A WACHS Glamorgan Scale Paediatric and Neonatal Pressure Injury Risk Assessment form to document risk assessment and guide management actions.

## 2.2 Partnering with patients and /or carers

WACHS clinical resources listed in 2.1.1 - 2.1.4 encourage patient (and carer) participation in shared decision making with the clinician. [WA Health Patient First](#)

resources provide information to patients and carers on how they can '[stay safe in hospital](#)' and reduce the risk of developing pressure injuries.

Discharge planning for patients with an existing pressure injury must include communication with all members of the healthcare team, the patient (and carer/s where appropriate) regarding ongoing management of the pressure injury.

### 2.3 Reporting pressure injury clinical incidents

As required in the WA Health Clinical Incident Management Mandatory Policy, clinical incidents are to be notified into the [Datix Clinical Incident Management System \(CIMS\)](#).

Hospital acquired pressure injuries and pressure injuries that have significantly deteriorated (progressed to the next stage of pressure injury) since admission must be notified into [Datix CIMS](#).

## 3. Definitions

<b>Patient</b>	The term 'patient' in this document is intended to also include consumers, clients, residents and other people, however titled, receiving healthcare from a clinician or other healthcare provider.
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## 4. Roles and Responsibilities

**WACHS Health Service Executive members** are responsible for ensuring clinical governance structures exist to enable ongoing monitoring of pressure injuries and implementation of quality improvement activities to prevent and reduce their occurrence.

### All Staff are:

- required to work within their scope of practice
- responsible for adhering to processes identified in this policy to ensure the optimal prevention and management of pressure injuries in WACHS healthcare facilities
- required to notify hospital acquired pressure injuries and pressure injuries that have significantly deteriorated into [Datix CIMS](#).

## 5. Compliance

Failure to comply with this policy may constitute a breach of the WA Health Code of Conduct (Code). The Code is part of the [Integrity Policy Framework](#) issued pursuant to section 26 of the [Health Services Act 2016](#) (WA) and is binding on all WACHS staff which for this purpose includes trainees, students, volunteers, researchers, contractors for service (including all visiting health professionals and agency staff) and persons delivering training or education within WACHS.

WACHS staff are reminded that compliance with all policies is mandatory.

### 6. Records Management

All WACHS clinical records must be managed in accordance with [Health Record Management Policy](#).

### 7. Evaluation

Governance and evaluation of pressure injury prevention and management processes involves data collection and interpretation at a site, regional and WACHS level. This includes compliance with processes to screen, assess, manage and prevent pressure injuries through clinical audit. WACHS tools include the Combined Bedside Risk Assessment (CoBRA) audit; the Pressure Injury, Prevention and Management (PIPAM) audit; and the In Maternity audit.

Analysis of pressure injury data from the Hospital Morbidity Data System (HMDS) and clinical outcomes (via Clinical Incident Management System information) at regional performance meetings.

The WACHS Comprehensive Care Committee reviews performance, compliance and other reports and makes recommendations associated with pressure injury prevention and management strategies.

### 8. Standards

[National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards](#) – 5.21, 5.22, 5.23

[Australian Aged Care Quality Agency Accreditation Standards](#)

Standard 2: Ongoing assessment and planning with consumers

Standard 3: Personal care and clinical care

### 9. Legislation

[Health Service Act 2016 \(WA\)](#) (WA)

[Carers Recognition Act 2004](#) (WA)

[Disability Services Act 1993](#) (WA)

[Guardianship and Administration Act 1990](#) (WA)

[Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(WA\) Act 2010](#)

[Mental Health Act 2014](#) (WA)

[State Records Act 2000](#) (WA)

## 10. References

1. National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel and Pan Pacific Pressure Injury Alliance. Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers: Clinical Practice Guideline. Emily Haesler (Ed.). Cambridge Media: Osborne Park, Western Australia; 2014.
2. [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards. 2nd ed. Sydney: ACSQHC; 2017.](#)
3. Government of Western Australia Department of Health. WA Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Clinical Guideline.2017.

## 11. Related Forms

[MR111 WACHS Nursing Admission, Screening and Assessment Tool – Adults](#)  
[MR111P WACHS Paediatric Nursing Admission/Discharge Assessment](#)  
[MR115 WACHS Paediatric Short Stay Medical Admission](#)  
[MR120 WACHS Adult Nursing Care Plan ‘My Care Plan’](#)  
[MR120P WACHS Paediatric Nursing Care Plan](#)  
[MR122 WACHS Wound Assessment and Management Plan](#)  
[MR124 WACHS Braden Scale and Pressure Injury Risk Assessment](#)  
[MR124A WACHS Glamorgan Scale Paediatric and Neonatal Pressure Injury Risk Assessment](#)  
[MR124B WACHS Comprehensive Skin Assessment](#)  
[MR184 WACHS Interhospital Clinical Handover](#)  
[MR184A WACHS Resident Handover Form](#)  
[MR184B WACHS Intra-hospital Clinical Handover Form](#)  
[MR184C WACHS Interhospital Maternal Form](#)  
[MR184P WACHS Interhospital transfer – neonatal paediatric form](#)  
[MR66 WACHS Clinical Handover \(Allied Health\)](#)  
[MR70A WACHS Antenatal inpatient Care Plan](#)  
[MR80 WACHS Vaginal Birth Postnatal Care Plan](#)  
[MR80A.1 WACHS Antenatal Risk Assessment for VTE Prophylaxis](#)  
[MR80A.2 WACHS Postnatal Risk Assessment for VTE Prophylaxis](#)  
[MR81 WACHS Caesarean Postnatal Care Plan](#)  
[RC5 WACHS Resident Admission Assessment](#)  
[RC7 WACHS Resident Care Plan](#)

## 12. Related Policy Documents

CAHS [Neonatology Skin Care Guideline](#)  
CAHS [Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Policy](#)  
FSHF [Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Policy](#)  
RPBG [Pressure Injury Prevention Clinical Practice Standard](#)  
SCGH [Pressure Injury Risk Management Nursing Practice Guideline](#)  
SCGH [Preventing and Managing Pressure Injuries Policy](#)  
WACHS [Allied Health Clinical Handover Policy](#)  
WACHS [Inter-hospital Clinical Handover Form Procedure](#)  
WACHS [Residential Aged Care – Admission Flowchart](#)  
WNHS [Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Clinical Guideline](#)

### 13. Related WA Health System Policies

MP0122/19 [Clinical Incident Management Policy \(2019\)](#)

MP0095/18 [Clinical Handover Policy](#)

### 14. Policy Framework

[Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality Policy Framework](#)

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<b>Contact:</b>	Program Officer Clinical Practice Standards		
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