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The National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel provides multidisciplinary leadership for improved patient outcomes in pressure injury prevention and management through education, public policy, and research.

April 2, 2020

Dear NPIAP Panel Members and Supporters,

The NPIAP is monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects it is having on both healthcare providers and patients. We remain committed to our core mission to **PROVIDE INTERPROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP TO IMPROVE PATIENT OUTCOMES IN PRESSURE INJURY PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION, PUBLIC POLICY AND RESEARCH**. We realize that both human and material resources are strained as we care for the ever-increasing number and complexity of patients with COVID-19. In response to the many inquiries and expressions of concerns we have received, the NPIAP has compiled a list of **COVID-19 Related Resources for Pressure Injury Prevention**. We will continue to expand this list as needed. See below for an initial list of resources.

Please keep us apprised of the challenges you are facing. Many of the NPIAP Board members are also working in hospitals and care facilities and we will do our best to respond as quickly as possible.

Evidence-based standards of pressure injury prevention have not changed. However, we reasonably anticipate that unavoidable pressure injury rates may increase during the COVID-19 crisis. By definition, an unavoidable designation means that we provided evidence-based preventive interventions to the best of our ability. The NPIAP remains committed to developing innovative strategies to support the health and well-being of both providers and patients despite current challenges.

Our thoughts are with the many health care professionals who are on the frontlines of care as we battle the Coronavirus/COVID-19. We applaud your dedication and commitment in providing the best possible care to your patients in these challenging times.

Stay safe! Let us know how we can best support you.

Kind regards,

Janet Cuddigan, PhD, RN, FAAN
Professor, University of Nebraska Medical Center
President, National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel

NPIAP COVID-19 Related Resources for Pressure Injury Prevention

1. **Many health care professionals are wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) the majority of the day. There are increasing reports of pressure injuries from masks, goggles and other PPE.**
 - a. The Portuguese Wound Management Association (APTferidas) has developed a White Paper with many practical recommendations on *Prevention of skin lesions caused by Personal Protective Equipment*. [Link here.](#)
 - b. **If you add prophylactic dressings or other skin protectant products under your mask, double-check and make sure that the seal of your N95 mask is still intact.** Please refer to these CDC links for additional information on N95 mask respirators and how to check the seal to ensure your safety in the face of COVID-19. [Link here.](#)
 - c. Our colleagues on the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (EPUAP) have developed the *COVID-19 and Pressure Ulcer Prevention Forum* where clinicians can share their experiences and good practices. [Link here.](#)
2. **An increasing number of patients with COVID-19 are being placed in prone position as they develop Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS).** The NPIAP has received requests for best practices for prone positioning. Several NPIAP Board members who are actively practicing in critical care units have developed educational material on *Pressure Injury Prevention – PIP Tips for Prone Positioning*. [Link here.](#)
3. **We are all caring for an increasing number of patients with COVID-19 being treated with CPAP and BiPAP. These patients often require high HOB elevation to facilitate breathing.** Please review the following resources:
 - a. FREE MDRPI Prevention Posters. [Link here.](#)
 - b. 2019 International Guideline recommendations on positioning strategies and use of prophylactic dressings to prevent sacral pressure injuries. [Link here.](#)
4. **CMS has announced policy exceptions and extensions for quality reporting and data submission to provide relief for clinicians during the COVID-19 pandemic. The announcement includes provisions for provider, hospital and post-acute care (PAC) programs.** [Link here.](#)