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.