Support Surface Terms and Definitions: *Updates*

**Erica Thibault MSN RN CNS CWON APN; Cynthia Sylvia D NURS Msc MA, RN CWCN; Carley Gardner MSN RN CNL CPPS CWOCN; Carroll Gillespie MS BSN RN CWOCN; Melissa Morgan MSN RN WCC; Virginia Capasso PhD ANP-BC ACNS-BC CWS; Kristen Thurman PT CWS**

**Terms & Definitions Small Working Group Members, Support Surface Standards Initiative, National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel**

**Background**

The Support Surface Standards Initiative, Terms & Definitions (T & D) workgroup, constructed a standardized lexicon of terms and definitions to facilitate communication associated with the performance evaluation of support surfaces (NPUAP, 2007).

**Purpose**

The purpose of the workgroup was to review and update the list of terms and definitions associated with the standardized performance evaluation test protocols, in accordance with the Standards protocol. This poster serves to summarize the changes from the document. This is a living document and will evolve over time.

**Methods**

The workgroup met on several occasions over several years to review the existing terms. The references were reviewed to ensure they were current, relevant and accessible. Terms and definitions were added, updated and deleted based on current evidence.

**Conclusions**

An updated list of terms and definitions was compiled to reflect innovation in performance evaluation of support surfaces in compliance with the Standards (RESNA SS-1 2019 Full Body Support Surface Standards).

**Recommendations for Clinical Practice:**

- Utilize S3I Terms & Definitions in standardized clinical documentation and policies & procedures
- Inform selection of support surfaces for specific patient populations
- Support the inter-professional collaboration in the procurement process collaboration in the procurement process

**References**


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### Logistical Reorganization

- The list is now in alphabetical order to facilitate ease of use
- The full list of Terms and Definitions can be found on the NPIAP website: [www.npiap.com](http://www.npiap.com)

### Resources

- S31 Terms & Definitions

### Updated Terms

- Air fluidized
- Elastic foam
- Elastomer
- Open cell foam
- Mattress
- shear
- Viscoelastic foam
- Viscous fluid

### New Terms

- Basic standard hospital mattress
- Bottoming out
- Constant/continuous low pressure
- Critical immersion
- Microclimate
- Pulsation
- Safe working load
- shear strain
- shear stress
- Standard temperature and humidity environment
- Support surface loading indenter
- Test dummy- full body
- Therapeutic working load

### Deprecated Terms:

- high specification foam mattress, water

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