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WHAT ARE PRESSURE INJURIES?

Once called bedsores, pressure injuries are localized damage to the skin and underlying soft tissue. They usually form over bony prominences (like the tailbone and heels) or in relation to medical devices (like a breathing tube that presses on the face).

WORLD WIDE PRESSURE
INJURY PREVENTION DAY
2020



www.npiap.com

LEARN MORE ABOUT PRESSURE INJURIES.

Talk with your healthcare provider and visit the National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel online at npiap.org



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STOP
PRESSURE
INJURIES

Have you ever noticed that sitting in the same position can get uncomfortable over time? That's your cue to change positions. But if you're unable to move or adjust, constant pressure is put on your skin, which restricts blood flow. Without adequate blood flow, the skin and tissue beneath the skin can die and wounds called pressure injuries can form.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RISK

You may be at risk for pressure injuries if:

- You must stay in bed or can't move because of an illness or medical condition.
- You can't move because it's too painful.
- You are going to have surgery that might last 3+ hours.
- You use a wheelchair or sit for long periods of time.

CREATING A PLAN

If you or your loved one is at risk for a pressure injury or develops a pressure injury, talk with your healthcare provider to make a plan. These plans address a variety of factors that can weaken the skin.



MOVEMENT & COMFORT

Healthcare providers and caregivers may help you change positions at regular intervals. You may need to use a special bed or cushion that helps protect your skin. Your healthcare provider also will consider any appropriate medications.



SKIN CARE & CLEANSING

Beyond properly washing and drying your skin, it's important to manage your sweat, and bladder and bowel habits. Gently wash—don't scrub—your skin with a soft sponge or cloth. Your healthcare provider may recommend special cleansers and barrier products.



DIET & NUTRITION

Proper nutrition helps keep skin and muscles strong, which helps prevent pressure injuries and promotes healing if a pressure injury occurs.

- **Calories.** Without enough calories, you may lose muscle mass and weight.
- **Protein.** Increased protein intake can help pressure injuries heal. Protein repairs and maintains tissue and muscle.
- **Amino Acids.** These are the building blocks of protein. The amino acids arginine and glutamine are critical in wound healing.
- **Fluids.** Staying hydrated ensures nutrients are spread throughout your body.
- **Vitamins & Minerals.** Many vitamins and minerals are associated with healing.

