

PUSH Tool Information

Tool Development

The **P**ressure **U**lcer **S**cale for **H**ealing (PUSH Tool) was developed by the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) as a quick, reliable tool to monitor the change in pressure ulcer status over time. The tool is based on (1) an analysis of research literature to identify the critical parameters commonly used to monitor pressure ulcer healing and (2) a statistical analysis (i.e. principal component analysis) of existing research data bases on pressure ulcer monitoring and (3) a national retrospective validation study. The first draft of the tool was presented at the Fifth National NPUAP Conference in February 1997. Proceedings of the conference were published in *Advances in Wound Care, Vol. 10, No. 5, September 1997*. Copies of the proceedings can be obtained through Springhouse Corporation (215-646-8700 or <http://www.woundcarenet.com>).

Further Research and Validation

Since its initial development, the tool has been validated by 2 multi-site retrospective studies and a pilot test conducted by CMS. PUSH is a research-validated tool that quickly and reliably captures the key assessments necessary to monitor whether a pressure ulcer is getting better or worse over time.

Copyright Restrictions

NPUAP requires PUSH users to first complete the PUSH User Registration Form. This will help us monitor use of the PUSH Tool and better address the needs of PUSH Tool Users.

Noncommercial Use

Although the PUSH Tool is copyrighted to the NPUAP, you are free to use it for education, research, and practice purposes. Non-commercial users are only required to acknowledge the NPUAP and the "Version Number" of the tool on any hard-copy or electronic reproduction.

This a research-validated tool. Therefore, we recommend that the content of the tool not be altered or modified by individual users. If you chose to modify the tool, please note that you have made modifications after citing the NPUAP as the original source.

Commercial Use

The PUSH Tool should not be used as part of any "for profit" commercial venture or enterprise without written permission of the NPUAP. Royalties may be required under these circumstances. NPUAP will give you a quote after reviewing your registration form. (Use of the PUSH Tool in the care of patients in "for profit" health care facilities is exempt from this restriction.)

PUSH Tool Use

Clinical users indicate that Version 3.0 of the PUSH Tool is readily adopted and easy to use. Using a pocket calculator will facilitate accurate *length x width* calculations.

The NPUAP recommends use of the PUSH Tool at “regular intervals”. The *AHCPR Treatment Guideline* recommends assessments be performed “at least weekly” and “if the condition of the patient or of the wound deteriorates”. The **PRESSURE ULCER HEALING CHART** (which is attached to the PUSH Tool) will allow you to graph PUSH Tool scores over time for each ulcer. You should be able to “tell at a glance” whether the ulcer is healing, remains unchanged, or is deteriorating.

The PUSH Tool is designed to monitor the three critical parameters that are the most indicative of healing. In developing specific treatment plans, you will need to assess additional parameters (e.g., foul odor, color of exudate, undermining, and tunneling). Any increase in the PUSH Tool score (indicating wound deterioration) requires a more complete assessment of the ulcer and the patient’s overall condition.

If you have any questions regarding use of the PUSH Tool, please contact the NPUAP at 978-364-5130 or E-mail: npuap@npuap.org.

Staff Education

When introducing any new assessment tool, staff should be educated regarding appropriate use of the tool through formal education programs. We recommend demonstrating use of the tool on actual patients and conducting interrater reliability checks (i.e. comparing assessments made by experienced and new users).

Research-based Refinements

Refinements may be made to the PUSH Tool based on the results of ongoing research. Any tool modifications will be posted at the NPUAP website (www.npuap.org).

User Evaluation and Refinement

To be an effective measure of pressure ulcer healing, the PUSH Tool must be (1) *valid*, (2) *reliable*, (3) *responsive to changes in the ulcer over time*, and (4) *clinically practical*. Please help us evaluate how well the PUSH Tool meets these criteria. The NPUAP invites and welcomes suggestions for refining and improving the PUSH Tool. Please send written comments to the NPUAP.

Signature

Yes, I certify that I have read and understood the PUSH Tool Information Form and that I will abide by NPUAP's copyright restrictions as noted above.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Comments or questions? Send them to:

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