

NEVER EVENTS

Any Stage III or Stage IV Pressure Injury Acquired After Admission to Hospital

Definition

Staging

Pressure injuries are also known as bed sores, and they are categorized into 4 stages.

- Stage I: The skin is a slightly different colour, but there are no open wounds
- Stage II: The skin breaks open and a sore forms
- Stage III: The sore becomes worse and creates a crater in the tissue
- Stage IV: The sore is very deep, causing extensive damage; these sores can harm muscle, bone, and tendons

Unstageable (ungradable): Full-thickness skin and tissue loss that is obscured by slough or eschar (i.e., dead tissue), so that the severity of the injury cannot be confirmed.

Stage III and IV injuries can lead to serious complications, such as infections of the bone or blood (sepsis).

Sources: [Never Events for Hospital Care in Canada](#) and [Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario Best Practice Guideline](#)

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria for Reporting

- Includes: Stage III/IV and unstageable pressure injuries acquired after admission to hospital
- Excludes: Stage I/II pressure injuries acquired after admission to hospital and Stage III/IV pressure injuries acquired before admission

Source: Adapted from [Oak Valley Health](#)

Resources for Patients and Health Care Teams

Resources for Patients and Care Partners

- Ontario Health: [Pressure Injuries quality standard patient guide](#)
- Alberta Health Services: [Pressure Injuries: Care Instructions](#) (handout)
- Wounds Canada: [Pressure Injuries handouts](#)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: [Patient and Family Education Booklet](#)

Clinical Guidelines and Standards

National and Provincial

- Accreditation Canada: Pressure injury prevention and management is included as a Required Safety Practice in its accreditation guidelines (national standards can be accessed using your hospital's online portal)
- Ontario Health: [Pressure Injuries quality standard](#)
- Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation: Canadian Best Practice Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of [Pressure Ulcers in People with Spinal Cord Injury](#) (clinician resource handbook)
- Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario: [Pressure Injury Management](#): Risk Assessment, Prevention and Treatment (best practice guideline)

International

- American College of Physicians: [Treatment of Pressure Ulcers](#) (clinical practice guideline)
- European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel, and Pan Pacific Pressure Injury Alliance: [Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers/Injuries: Clinical Practice Guideline](#)
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence: [Pressure Ulcers: Prevention and Management](#) (clinical guideline)
- Wound Healing Society: [Update on guidelines for pressure ulcers](#) (treatment guidelines)
- Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society: [Prevention and management of pressure injuries \(ulcers\)](#) (guideline and checklist; journal access may be required for the full manuscript)

Checklists, Tools, and Resources for Prevention and Management

National

- Alberta Health Services: [Pressure Injuries](#) (health information and tools)
- Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada:
 - [Care – Pressure Injuries](#) (mitigation strategies)
 - [Mismanagement of Wounds and Pressure Injuries](#) (risk reference sheets)
- Wounds Canada: [Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Pressure Injuries](#) (best practices)

International

- Agency for Clinical Innovation: [Pressure Injury Toolkit for Spinal Cord Injury and Spina Bifida](#) (toolkit and resources for consumers and carers)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality:
 - [Pressure Injury Prevention in Hospitals Training Program](#) (modules and toolkit)
 - [Preventing Pressure Ulcers in Hospitals](#) (toolkit)
- Indiana State Government: [Braden Scale for Predicting Pressure Sore Risk](#) (checklist)

- National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel: [Standardized Pressure Injury Prevention Protocol \(S-PIPP\)](#) (free checklist, sign-in required)
- Pediatric Affinity Group: [Preventing Pressure Ulcers](#) (how-to guide, pediatric supplement)

Other Partner Links and References

National

- Healthcare Excellence Canada: [Pressure Ulcer: Clinical and System Reviews, Incident Analyses](#) (resource materials)

International

- Children's Hospitals' Solutions for Patient Safety: [Pressure Injuries](#) (resource bundles and videos)
- Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing: [Pressure Injury Prevention](#) (protocol)

Additional tools and resources are available in our [Pressure Injury Quality Standard Community of Practice](#) on Quorum, as well as on our [Pressure Injuries Quality Standard](#) Quorum page.

Need this information in an accessible format? 1-877-280-8538, TTY 1-800-855-0511, info@OntarioHealth.ca

Document disponible en français en contactant info@OntarioHealth.ca

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