

Patient Safety Event: Stage 3 Pressure Injury

Why was this a Critical Incident?

A patient was discharged home after rehabilitation from hip surgery. As part of disposition, a referral to Home Care was placed. Home Care staff discovered a wound upon admission in the program which had deteriorated to a stage 3 pressure injury. The concern is there was a gap in communicating this wound to the Home Care team, upon the client's discharge from hospital.

What happened in the incident?

A patient experienced a pressure injury to their bottom while in hospital. The injury was assessed as a stage 2 pressure injury (broken skin).

The patient was discharged with Home Care supports. At the initial visit, a staff person noticed a pressure injury to the patient's bottom. A nurse was arranged to assess and treat the wound. They noted the wound had progressed to a stage 3 pressure injury (a deeper wound).

The concern is that at discharge from the hospital, no wounds were communicated to the Home Care program and the wound progressed to stage 3.

What is the Health Care System learning? What are the recommendations?

There was no standardized acute care Kardex could be located in the organization's forms. Recommendation: Update Kardex to include a wound care section.

No pressure relieving mattress was available at the time.

Recommendation: Provide education staff to staff at the site about the mattress selection resources.

There is a gap in knowledge related to wound and skin care management policy.

Note: The Critical Incident Review Committee recognizes there is a plan in place for wound care education in the fall of 2024. The goal is to increasing skin and wound care knowledge in order to support best practices in skin and wound care management and communication, including at the time the patient is discharged.

In addition to exploring contributing factors to the event, "good catches" were identified. These prevent an event from being more significant.

- Staff consistently shared how much they enjoyed the collegial aspect of their work environment.

Keywords: Pressure injury prevention

Glossary:

Stage 2 and 3 pressure injury ("bedsore"): Wounds are described by depth. The higher the number, the deeper the wound.

Kardex: A desktop file system that gives a brief overview of each patient and is updated every shift.

YOUR PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT TO US, SO IN THIS SUMMARY WE REMOVED ANY DETAILS THAT WOULD HELP OTHERS IDENTIFY WHO IT HAPPENED TO. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE CAN LEARN FROM SAFETY EVENTS AND MAKE CHANGES TO IMPROVE THE CARE WE PROVIDE.



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