

Manitoba Health, Healthy Living & Seniors (MHLS) supports reporting and learning from patient safety events. The focus of a patient safety review is to closely look at the health care system that surrounds and interacts with those giving and receiving care. The goal is to identify risks to patient safety and recommend the most effective ways to minimize risk and improve the delivery of healthcare.

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Pressure Ulcer

Summary:

Clients developed pressure ulcers after admission to health care facilities.

Keywords:

Pressure ulcer

Device Name (if applicable):

Drug/Name/Fluid Name: (if applicable):

Type of Analysis: multiple events

Topic: Pressure Ulcer

Findings of the Review:

The lack of documentation and gaps in the implementation of interventions to reduce pressure may have increased the likelihood that the pressure ulcers would progress to stage 3 or 4.

Lack of consistency regarding pressure reduction mattress availability increased the likelihood that the most appropriate mattress may not be implemented in a timely manner and possibly contributed to the development of the pressure ulcers.

Inconsistent interdisciplinary care plan and inconsistent communication in some of the cases regarding wound care along with the lack of discussion with the patient/family as to the agreed upon goals regarding wound care increased the likelihood that the pressure ulcers would progress to stage 3 or 4.

System Learning:

Provide role specific education to health care providers regarding pressure ulcer prevention, wound care protocols/practices, skin assessments/care, interdisciplinary consults and the use of appropriate pressure reduction equipment as per regional guidelines.

Establish and maintain a regional process for accessing and upgrading pressure reduction mattresses based on best practices. This includes, but is not limited to, information on contacts for where to obtain pressure reduction surfaces.

Establish and implement a process to document and communicate wound care information to all health care providers and client/family.

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