

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

Development of a Pressure Ulcer in a Hospitalized Patient

Summary:

A patient was admitted to hospital with respiratory distress. While admitted and being treated for respiratory concerns, the patient also underwent debridement to an existing pressure ulcer. Debridement had not been previously recommended by the patient's consulting plastic surgeon. Following the debridement, the patient's wound was graded as a Stage 4 pressure ulcer.

Keywords: pressure ulcer, debridement, hospitalization

Device Name (if applicable):

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

Type of Analysis: single event

Topic: Pressure Ulcer

Findings of the Review

The patient's existing pressure ulcer was noted on the transfer referral form that was sent to the admitting hospital.

The recommendation from the consulting plastic surgeon not to debride the wound was communicated to the receiving hospital at a previous patient admission six months prior, but was not reflected on the transfer referral form sent to the admitting hospital at this admission.

The patient returned from hospital to their original facility with the wound graded as a Stage 4 pressure ulcer.

System Learning:

Staff needs to ensure that the transfer referral form sent to the receiving hospital includes necessary medical information such as specialist consultation reports.

The electronic patient record required an upgrade with a new module that highlights critical medical information on the patient profile display page rather than being buried within the medical record. This ensures that the required information can be found in a timely manner when completing the transfer referral form.

To strengthen wound care management practice, a dedicated wound care nurse needs to be available in the facility.

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