

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

Summary:

A patient with peripheral vascular disease had Buck's traction applied following the diagnosis of a fractured hip for pain control and fracture stabilization.

When the traction was removed 26 hours later, reddened, circular, bruised areas were found in area covered by the traction boot.

Despite treatment of the areas, pressure ulcers developed.

Amputation of the foot was needed approximately three months later.

Keywords:

Buck's traction, pressure ulcers, amputation

Device Name (if applicable):

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

Type of Analysis: single event

Topic: Pressure Ulcer

Findings of the Review:

The patient experienced intense pain before and after the application of the traction.

The skin covered by the traction boot was not assessed following the application of the traction until the time of surgery.

Recommendations for Improvement:

Identify alternatives to traction for pain management in patients with peripheral vascular disease.

Develop a policy and procedure regarding the assessment of patients with traction.

Date Posted: