Standards and Indicators
Scoping report

June 2015

1. Title
Standards for Pressure Ulcers

2. Healthcare Improvement Scotland standards and indicators

Healthcare Improvement Scotland is a public body which supports the healthcare priorities of the Scottish Government, in particular those of NHSScotland’s Healthcare Quality Strategy and 2020 vision.

The role of standards is to:

• provide a statement(s) of an expected level of service which demonstrates delivery of person-centred, safe and effective healthcare, and promote understanding, comparison and improvement of care, and
• support national consistency and/or local improvement.
3. Clinical need

“Pressure ulcers (also called pressure sores, bed sores and decubitus ulcers) are areas of tissue damage that can occur in any person who cannot reposition themselves, or who are acutely ill or malnourished. Pressure ulcers can negatively affect quality of life and impose a significant financial burden on healthcare systems”1.

In June 2008, a National Integrated Tissue Viability Programme was introduced, by NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (NHS QIS) and sponsored by Scottish Government. The programme put in place web-based tools for education and training and supported the development and implementation of the SSKIN (Surface, Skin Inspection, Keep Moving, Incontinence, Nutrition) care bundle.

NHS QIS also introduced a Best Practice Statement in 2009 for the prevention and management of pressure ulcers. Since then, the activity around tissue viability has predominantly been through the Clinical Quality Indicator (CQI) process and more recently the Scottish Patient Safety Index (SPSI) of Harms. An increase, albeit slight, in the incidence of sepsis caused by pressure ulcers was noted by the Ombudsman in 2013 and highlighted to the Chief Nursing Officer. It was agreed a review of tissue viability services was required in order to develop an approach towards some consistency throughout NHSScotland2.

Rather than update the best practice statement from 2009, Healthcare Improvement Scotland has committed to develop standards for pressure ulcers in Scotland. A Tissue Viability Short Life Working Group has been set up and it is proposed that this group should form the basis of the pressure ulcers standards project group.

4. The scope of the pressure ulcers standards

4.1 Population

a. Population that will be covered:

- adults who have pressure ulcers or who are at risk of developing a pressure ulcer
- children, infants and neonates who have pressure ulcers or who are at risk of developing a pressure ulcer

b. Population that will not be covered: not applicable

4.2 Healthcare and/or social care setting

- In hospital, care homes, homes, social care and community settings
4.3 Areas for standards development

a. Areas that will be covered:

- assessment and prevention of pressure ulcers
- management of pressure ulcers
- education and training

b. Areas that will not be covered:

- chronic venous leg ulcers
- surgical wounds

5. Related development sources

5.1 Key documents, policies, standards, guidelines and work programmes relating to the pressure ulcers standards.

a. Key sources:

- The Rt Hon Lord MacLean, Chairman. The Vale of Leven Hospital Inquiry Report. [cited 2015 May 07]

b. Related Healthcare Improvement Scotland standards or indicators:

- Healthcare Improvement Scotland. Care of older people in hospital. In development
6. **Timelines**

Development of the pressure ulcers standards will begin in August 2015 and the project is due for completion at the end of 2016.

**References**

