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Pressure Ulcer Risk Primary or Secondary Evaluation Tool

PURPOSE-T (Pressure Ulcer Risk Primary or Secondary Evaluation Tool) is an evidence-based pressure ulcer risk assessment instrument that was developed using robust research methods (1-7). PURPOSE-T identifies adults at risk of developing a pressure ulcer and supports nurse decision-making to reduce that risk (primary prevention), but also identifies those with existing and previous pressure ulcers requiring secondary prevention and treatment. It uses colour to indicate the most important risk factors and forms a three-step assessment process:

Step 1: Screening – to quickly screen out those clearly not at risk. It comprises assessment of mobility and skin status (including medical devices) as well as prompting nurses to use their clinical judgement to highlight any other risk factors, which significantly impact the individual patient.

Step 2: Full Assessment – incorporates the following evidence-informed items:

- Independent movement
- Detailed skin assessment
- Previous PU history
- Medical devices
- Perfusion
- Sensory perception
- Moisture
- Diabetes

Step 3: Assessment decision based on Step 2 and aided by colour coding:

- Green: No PU – not currently at risk
- Amber: No PU but at risk, requiring primary prevention
- Red: PU category 1 or above or scarring from previous pressure ulcer, requiring secondary prevention/treatment

References

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