Pressure Ulcer Prevention Guidance on Pressure Relieving Equipment

Allocation of Pressure Relieving Equipment

- Implement and document pressure ulcer prevention strategy
- Undertake daily risk assessment or more frequently if change in condition
- Use Clinical Judgment

At Risk – Moderate Risk
Pressure Reducing Foam Mattress
- Fully mobile
- No pressure damage
- Patients with unstable spinal or pelvic injuries

At Moderate Risk - High Risk
Pressure Reducing Foam Mattress +/- Repose Mattress*
- Reduced mobility
- Underweight
- Diabetic /+ vascular disease
- Grade 1 or 2 pressure ulcer (superficial skin loss)
- Patients with previous pressure damage

Seating: 2 hours per session
Consider using pressure relieving cushion
Repositioning: 2 hourly

*Do not use: if patient weight above 19 stone or if patient has plaster cast, external fixator metal work or metal frame in bed

At High Risk - Very High Risk
Pressure Relieving Mattress
Patients with:
- Existing grade 3 & 4 pressure ulcers
- Who have had long lie following fall
- At risk that weigh 130Kg or more or who are too wide for Repose
- Immobile patients due to illness or paralysis
- Multiple underlying health problems
- Being nursed at home on an air mattress

Seating with pressure ulcer: seek Tissue Viability Advice
Seating: with no pressure damage: up to 2 hours
Use pressure relieving cushions
Repositioning: 2 hourly or more frequently depending on individual patient need

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