

Translation of Pressure Ulcer Risk Factor Research into Practice

This presentation will highlight the risk assessment work package of the recent National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Pressure Ulcer Research Programme (PURPOSE). It will describe the development of a new evidence-based risk assessment framework - Pressure Ulcer Risk Primary or Secondary Evaluation Tool (PURPOSE T) and a new active monitoring model of care.

PURPOSE T development incorporated five distinct phases:

1. Developing the evidence base by undertaking a systematic review of the epidemiological literature relating to pressure ulcer risk factors to identify those most predictive of pressure ulcer development.
2. Consensus study, incorporating an expert group, consideration of the evidence, and service user views to agree the content for PURPOSE T
3. Conceptual framework development to show the critical determinants of pressure ulcer development and underpin PURPOSE T
4. Design and pre-testing with clinical nurses to confirm the content and improve ease of use
5. Clinical evaluation involving 230 patients with expert and ward/community nurses to assess reliability, validity and ease of use clinically

Other components of the PURPOSE programme explored:

- The relationship between localised skin pain and pressure ulcer development
- Organisational factors associated with severe pressure ulcer development
- The impact of pressure ulcers on patients' quality of life

The results from these studies together with PURPOSE T development were drawn together through an active monitoring model of care.

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