

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Patient Safety Event:

Deterioration of a Pressure Injury After Discharge

Why was this a Critical Incident?

At discharge from a facility, a wound was not communicated to home care. When the wound was assessed, it had deteriorated to a Stage 3 pressure injury.

What happened in the incident?

A client experienced a stage 2 (broken skin) pressure injury while in facility care. The patient was discharged with home care supports, and the wound was noticed during initial assessment. At that time, it had worsened to a stage 3 pressure injury (deeper loss of skin layers).

What is the Health Care System learning?

There was no standardized acute care Kardex where wound care is documented.

No pressure relieving mattress was available at the time of patient's admission.

There is a gap in knowledge related to wound and skin care management policy.

What are the recommendations?

Update Kardex to include a wound care section.

Provide education staff to staff at the site about the mattress selection resources.

There is a plan in place for wound care education. The goal is to increasing skin and wound care knowledge in order to support best practices in skin and wound care management.

Education will review communication, including at the time the patient is discharged to community care teams.

Keywords: pressure injury, information transfer, Kardex

Glossary:

Deteriorated - to become progressively worse

Stage 2 and 3 pressure injury- (“bedsore”): Wounds are described by depth, and staged from 1-4. The higher the number, the deeper the wound.

Kardex: A desktop file system that gives a brief overview of each patient’s care plan and is updated every shift.

Your privacy is important to us, so in this summary we have removed any details which would help identify the subject of this event. It’s important that we can learn from safety events and make changes to improve the care we provide.

