

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Patient Safety Event:

Medical Device Causes Pressure Injury

Why was this a Critical Incident?

An indwelling (left within the body) medical device caused a Stage 3 pressure injury.

What happened in the incident?

A patient required an indwelling feeding tube and the desired product to secure the tube in place to reduce the risk of skin breakdown was not available. A stage 3 pressure injury developed from the medical device.

What is the Health Care System learning?

A specific product was ordered by the surgeon to secure the feeding tube in place, but was not stocked at the facility.

Communication related to the unavailability of the ordered product did not occur between the health care providers and the surgeon. An alternate in-stock product was selected for use.

The Braden Scale does not provide a cue to assess for pressure injury risk when a medical device is in use.

What are the recommendations?

Educate on the importance of communicating with the ordering physician, to clarify if an alternate product can be used when a specific product is not available. Consider alerting the unit manager when orders are received for supplies that are not commonly used at the site.

Implement a practice of collaborative conversation amongst health care providers when orders are received for a treatment product that is not stocked on site

Utilize the expertise of the on-site educator for advice and further education on product use.

Consult with the education team to provide information to all facilities about the use of various securement devices according to the organization's policy.

Add preventative interventions specific to medical devices on the pressure injury assessment tool.

Keywords: pressure injury, medical device, feeding tube

Glossary:

Braden Scale - a standard tool used to predict risk of pressure injuries. A lower score means the patient has a high risk of pressure injuries.

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

Medical Device - a wide range of health or medical instruments used in the treatment, diagnosis or prevention of disease or abnormal physical condition.

Feeding tube - a flexible plastic tube placed into the stomach or bowel to help patients get additional nutrition that they need.

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.

