

065: ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING CLINICAL GUIDELINE ON PRESSURE ULCER RISK ASSESSMENT AND PREVENTION. A NATIONAL PILOT AUDIT

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Objective:

To develop and evaluate evidence-based resources to facilitate implementation and audit of the RCN guideline on pressure ulcer risk assessment and prevention.

Methods:

Development of audit tools to monitor current practice, engagement of acute and long term care sites across England and Wales, development of implementation resource pack, implementation of RCN guideline utilising developed resources, follow up audit, data analysis and comparison, feedback to sites. July 2001 - December 2002

Abstract:

Effective pressure ulcer risk assessment and prevention improves patient outcomes and reduces the length of stay, staff time, product usage and potential for litigation, however variation in practice across the UK highlighted the need for guidance on how to implement optimal care to prevent pressure ulcers.

Following the publication of the Royal College of Nursing Guideline for pressure ulcer risk assessment and prevention (RCN 2001) a national, two-stage pilot audit project was established to facilitate the implementation and evaluation of the Guideline in practice. The project, which includes the development of an education resource pack, implementation guide and audit tool to accompany the guideline, commenced in July 2001 for a duration of 18 months.

Following a base line audit at 6 sites, the guideline and resource pack were introduced into practice using a number of implementation strategies and the impact on practice evaluated by a second audit at the same sites.

It is anticipated that several benefits will accrue to patients, clinicians and participating sites, including:

- increased awareness of and improvements in pressure ulcer risk assessment and prevention could improve quality of care and reduce morbidity.
- the production of a rigorously developed, evidence-based resource pack to facilitate change in practice and evaluate the change.
- potential resource savings and reduced risk of litigation.
- highlighting the need for the development of a national audit database on pressure damage.
- establishment of networks to enable benchmarking and sharing of experiences.

The development of the resource pack, implementation strategies and audit tools will be described and interim results presented.