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## Background

Pressure ulcers are a key indicator of quality and also individuals experience of care; the associated effects of pressure ulcers on individuals are more likely to cause adverse health outcomes including poor quality of life and morbidity. They can also cause undue distress to individuals and their families. The occurrence of pressure ulcers is in the main generally preventable; with access to appropriate resources and equipment and effective multi-disciplinary team working. **Making every contact count is key.**

[Pressure Ulcers Explained - Video \(5m\)](#)

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## Why it matters

The overall treatment of pressure ulcers is the responsibility of clinical professionals, whereas **prevention is everyone's responsibility**. The occurrence of pressure ulcers can also indicate a safeguarding concern; particularly if avoidable and are often associated with other concerns such as neglect.

Guidance (January 2024) from Department of Health and Social Care advises on how to respond to individuals at risk [Pressure ulcers: how to safeguard adults - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pressure-ulcers-how-to-safeguard-adults)

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## Information

Part of responding to this is through prevention of harm where they occur and raising a safeguarding concern if there are any concerns on neglect or abuse to the person involved. The Protocol provides a national framework, identifying pressure ulcers as primarily an issue for clinical investigation rather than a safeguarding enquiry led by the local authority. It includes a [Decision Guide](#) to help decide when a pressure ulcer case may need to be referred.

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You should always follow your own organisations policy on pressure ulcers. If there is no suggestion or suspicion of abuse, acts of omission, or neglect there is no need to report a concern. If there are safeguarding concerns in relation to a pressure ulcer/Pressure ulcers, you can report via the following link: [Are you concerned about a vulnerable adult? - Lancashire County Council](#)

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## Questions to consider

- Remember that pressure ulcers can occur with many people, not just people who are bed bound or elderly.
- Are you familiar with your own guidance on how to recognise pressure ulcers, how to manage them and when to raise concerns?
- Consider raising a safeguarding if there are any concerns.
- Utilise the training on offer

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## What to do

There are some great sources of information, especially if you work in health, social care and care sector.

E-learning includes one for pressure ulcer prevention.

[Wound Care Education for the Health and Care Workforce - e-learning for healthcare \(e-lfh.org.uk\)](#)

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The National Wound Care Strategy Programme have updated the [Pressure Ulcer Recommendations and Clinical pathway](#) (May 2024)

This includes the [aSKINg Framework](#)

Gives Key advice:

- Assess risk
- Skin assessment and skin care
- Surface
- Keep moving
- Incontinence or increased moisture
- Nutrition
- Give Information

Reviewed: June 2024

Next Review Date: April 2026