

Device Related Pressure Ulcers



Rationale: To prevent the occurrence of device related pressure ulcers

Definition 'localised injury to the skin or underlying tissue as a result of sustained pressure from a device.' Eg. nasal cannulae, oxygen mask, splints, plaster of Paris, prosthesis, ET tube/ fixation tape, naso-gastric tubes, anti embolism stockings, catheter tubing.

Characteristics of a device related pressure ulcer~

- ⇒ Occur directly under device and typically mimic the device shape.
- ⇒ Tend to progress rapidly as often occur over areas without adipose tissue.
- ⇒ Skin is often obscured by device.

Prevention~

- ⇒ Ensure correct size and positioning of device
- ⇒ Cushion and protect skin with dressings/silicone pad in high risk areas
- ⇒ Vigilance around hard to see areas: scalp/hairline, under dressings etc.
- ⇒ Avoid placement of device over site of prior or existing pressure ulcer
- ⇒ Be aware of oedema under device
- ⇒ Educate staff on correct device use and prevention of skin breakdown
- ⇒ Remove/reposition and provide basic skincare under device
- ⇒ Regular repositioning of device if possible and record on care and comfort chart
- ⇒ Avoid positioning patient onto device if possible
- ⇒ Educate patient/family to inform staff of any discomfort

