

# Safeguarding and Pressure damage

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# Why do we need to Consider Safeguarding?

- ▶ Pressure ulcers, which are largely preventable
- ▶ Pressure Ulcers cause distress to individuals and their families
- ▶ Pressure Ulcers can be actual and potential harm
- ▶ The presence of a potential avoidable pressure ulcer can be seen as Neglect
- ▶ Pressure ulcers create additional financial pressures for the NHS.
- ▶ Need to consider possible internal self reporting as well as external.

# Neglect

- ▶ Pressure ulcers may occur as a result of neglect.
- ▶ Neglect may involve the deliberate withholding or unintentional failure of a paid, or unpaid, carer to provide appropriate and adequate care and support.
- ▶ Neglect and acts of omission include:
  - ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs
  - failure to provide access to appropriate healthcare and support or educational services
  - the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating
- ▶ In some instances these factors are highly likely to result in significant preventable skin damage.

# Unpaid carers

- ▶ Where the unintentional neglect may be due to an unpaid carer struggling to provide care or not knowing the signs of developing pressure ulcers or why the person they care for is at risk, an appropriate response would be to revise the package of care and ensure that the carer has the support and equipment to care safely.
- ▶ In these circumstances it can be highly distressing to talk to carers about abuse and neglect, particularly where they have been dedicated in providing care but have not been given advice and support to prevent pressure ulcers.

# Capacity and pressure ulcers

- ▶ In line with shared decision making, when advising an individual who has capacity about self-care and prevention of pressure ulcers, it is important to establish that the person:
  - has understood the advice
  - can put the advice into practice and chooses to do so
  - has any necessary equipment and knows how to use it
  - understands the implications of not following the advice
- ▶ Where an individual, for reasons that seem sensible to them, chooses not to agree to follow advice, compromise and alternatives must be discussed and agreed upon if possible.
- ▶ Where an individual chooses not to follow any or some of the advice, an agreement to revisit the conversation must be made.
- ▶ Use The Pressure Ulcer leaflet

# Self neglect and Pressure ulcers

- ▶ Where it appears that the individual is neglectful in caring for themselves or the environment, staff should speak to them and try and establish why?
- ▶ If able address the root the root cause
  - Mental ill health
  - Pain
  - Knowledge/capacity
  - Embarrassment
- ▶ Staff should seek further advice from someone with the relevant knowledge and skills where there is risk to life or limb that cannot be managed or where self neglect poses a risk of harm - i.e Trust safeguarding team

# Lack of capacity and pressure ulcers

- ▶ Assess capacity
- ▶ Consult those who know the patient best
- ▶ Act in Best interests
- ▶ Provide appropriate care planning
  
- ▶ Can you physically hold a patient to provide care?
  
- ▶ Follow the Non compliant patient care pathways

# Making safeguarding personal

- ▶ The Care Act 2014 clearly lays out the duties of relevant partners to cooperate, including (but not only) local authorities and NHS bodies.
- ▶ This requires a shift of approach from one dominated by processes and tick boxes to a person-centred model that begins with the person at the centre of the concerns and fully involves them or their representative as appropriate.
- ▶ The response to the presence of pressure ulcers should involve the individual and their family, explaining the concerns and seeking their views.
- ▶ Use the managers checklist and the TVN decision support tool! ULHT

# Guidance; Safeguarding adults protocol: pressure ulcers and raising a safeguarding concern. Updated 23 July 2024 Department of health

- ▶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pressure-ulcers-how-to-safeguard-adults/safeguarding-adults-protocol-pressure-ulcers-and-raising-a-safeguarding-concern>
- ▶ This guidance updates the previous national standard protocol advising and supporting organisations in regard to pressure ulcers and the decision-making process as to whether a safeguarding concern should be raised with the local authority in order for them to decide if a section 42 safeguarding enquiry is required.

# Consideration of safeguarding

- ▶ The Care Act 2014 says that the safeguarding duties (under section 42) apply where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area:
  - Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
  - is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
  - as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect
- ▶ It is the responsibility of the designated safeguarding lead in each setting to appropriately triage any safeguarding concerns and ensure that referrals to the local authority for consideration of a section 42 (2) enquiry are appropriate.
- ▶ Within ULHT; this will be via the TVN support panel
- ▶ Within LCHS; scores of 15 will be discussed with your safeguarding team directly



▶ Any Questions?