Nursing Practice Alert

Pressure Injuries in COVID-19 patients

**Adult Inpatient Areas**

**Covid-19 and rule out COVID-19 patients in the acute care setting are at a very high risk of sustaining pressure injuries due to their disease process, co-morbidities, and other risk factors.**

**RISKS FOR SKIN BREAKDOWN/PRESSURE INJURY FORMATION IN COVID-19 PATIENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-existing risk factors</th>
<th>COVID-19 specific risk factors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced age</td>
<td>Hypoxia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comorbidities such as HTN, DM, Immunocompromised state, etc.</td>
<td>Diaphoresis (due to high fevers)</td>
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<td>Braden score &lt;19</td>
<td>Immobility (patients on ventilators/sedation)</td>
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<td>Multi-organ failure</td>
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All COVID-19 patients need proper pressure injury prevention in place and when applicable/available, be on a specialty surface to reduce their risk of developing pressure injury during hospitalization.

**COVID-19 in prone position: Refer to Advocate Aurora policies and procedures.**

- Q2 hour repositioning of head and neck to reduce pressure
- Consider use of a prone positioning pillow or Zflow Positioner/Pillow
- Preventative silicone bordered foams (ie Mepilex, Allevyn) to bony prominences including forehead, nose, chin, cheeks, clavicle, chest, anterior hips, elbows, knees, dorsal feet and toes, and around medical devices

**COVID-19 + in ICU (and on Specialty ICU Surface)**

- Zflow Positioner/Pillow, especially for intubated patients
- TAPs where available
- Preventative Sacral Foam
- Offloading heels using Prevalon boots or pillows (do not use towel rolls)

**COVID-19 + outside of the ICU and Braden Score <19 AND greater than 65 years old**

- Low Air Loss Mattress and/or Alternating Pressure if available (consider having some of these beds present on COVID-19 specific units so high-risk patient may be transferred directly onto them from the ED)
- TAPs where available
- Preventative Sacral Foam
- Chair cushion
- Offloading heels using Prevalon boots or pillows (do not use towel rolls)

**Rule out COVID-19 with a Braden Score <19 AND >65 years old**

- Preventative Sacral Foam
- Chair cushion
- Offloading heels using Prevalon boots or pillows (do not use towel rolls)

**Practice Change:** No change in practice, this is a reminder or best practice in PI prevention

**EHR Change:** NO CHANGE

- [Click Here](#) or scan this code for TAP Repositioning Instructions
- Other resources can be found here: [www.NPIAP.com](http://www.NPIAP.com)

**For questions contact:**

**Site Wound Care Experts**

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