

Pressure Injuries

Safety Learning System

Topic Guide

Introduction

The aim of this Topic Guide is to provide guidance for clinical staff, about the accurate reporting of patient pressure injury incidents into the Safety Learning System (SLS). Please refer to [SA Health How to notify a patient incident SLS Guide](#) for general information on how to report clinical incidents into the SLS.

The [National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards](#) and the [SA Health Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Clinical Guideline](#) recommends reporting incidents, so that action can be taken to improve care for that patient or consumer and for others who may be at similar risk.

Definition of a pressure injury: An event where localised injury to the skin and/or underlying tissue usually over a bony prominence, as a result of pressure, shear and/or friction, or a combination of these factors (Pan Pacific Clinical Practice Guideline).

Pressure injuries that have developed or deteriorated during an episode of health care are considered a clinical incident. A clinical incident is an event or circumstance that occurs during SA healthcare that could have or did result in harm to a patient, client or consumer of SA Health Services. All staff must notify pressure injury incidents into the SLS. This can also involve events that also require mandatory reporting to external agencies such as NDIS, Aged Care Serious Incident Response Scheme (SIRS), where appropriate. Pressure injuries present on admission, not arising from a previous SA health care encounter, do not require reporting to SLS.

The [SA Health Clinical Incident Management Policy](#) outlines the reporting, investigation and response to all clinical incidents.

Notifiers and managers have joint responsibility for accurate reporting, review and quality improvement.

Managers are responsible for clinical management of the pressure injury incidents in the SLS in line with the [SA Health Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Clinical Guideline](#).

Person affected

Use this section to record the location and treatment required, and if the patient has more than one pressure injury.

- > Under 'Type', select patient/consumer/client and complete details,
- > For the question 'was this person harmed in the incident?' respond yes, because a pressure injury is harmful,
- > The Harm/Injury Details section will appear. From the drop-down lists select:
 - The harm/injury (Pressure injury-skin or Pressure injury-mucosal)
 - The body part affected
 - The treatment required
- > Then click 'Add another injury' to record details of other pressure injury(s). Select appropriate treatment option from drop down menu.

Harm/Injury Details	
Injuries	<div> <div>Harm/Injury</div> <div>Pressure Injury - Skin</div> </div> <div> <div>Affected body part</div> <div>Sacrum</div> </div> <div>Add another injury</div>
Treatment	<div>Addition/change to care plan/procedure/treatment/medication/iv fluid treatment</div> <div>Add another</div>
Primary Person Affected - Demographics	<div>No change to management/treatment/care</div> <div>Management/treatment/care offered but refused</div> <div>Omitted treatment/care performed</div> <div>Addition/change to clinical examination/diagnostic measures</div> <div>Addition/change to care plan/procedure/treatment/medication/iv fluid treatment</div> <div>Addition/change to behaviour management/admission status</div> <div>Delayed further treatment/care</div> <div>No treatment required</div>
Person Affected - Cultural Background	
Person Affected - Country of Birth	
Person Affected - Preferred language spoken at home	
Person Affected - Demographic Flag	

Incident Classification.

Level 1 – Pressure Injury / Ulcer / Sore.

Level 2 – There are 3 options for when/where the pressure injury was acquired, and SLS provides definitions. Note the advice in the pop-ups.

- > **New** – all pressure injuries that have developed during the current admission to this health service. This includes SA Health services that are delivered to people in their homes.
- > **Present on admission from home or external service provider** – Pressure Injury was acquired in the community, private health services or residential aged care (ie outside of SA Health services) before admission to an SA Health service.
- > **Worsening of existing / observed after internal transfer** – Either acquired in previous SA Health service, before transfer into current location OR Pressure Injury has deteriorated / progressed / worsened by one or more stages during current admission.

Level 3 – Select most appropriate Stage – Stage 1, 2, 3, 4, unstageable, suspected deep tissue, mucosal or not known.

Incident Classification	
★ Level 1	Pressure Injury / Ulcer / Sore
★ Level 2	New
★ Level 3	
Additional Pressure injury questions	
1. Patient factors contributing to pressure injury	<div> Stage 1 Stage 2 Stage 3 Stage 4 Unstageable Suspected Deep Tissue Not known Mucosal </div>
2. Environmental factors contributing to pressure injury	

Additional pressure injury questions are fields that allow for the capture of patient and environmental factors, the number of pressure injuries the patient has, and interventions in place. These are not mandatory fields however the more information provided by the notifier may assist in the investigation and better quality data for trending analysis.

Related Documents

See the [SA Health Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Clinical Guideline](#).

NDIS and Aged Care SIRS serious reportable incident checklist and flowcharts can be found on the [Clinical incident management policy, guidelines and tools webpage](#).

For more information

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