

Innovations in Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers



*Interdisciplinary Pressure Ulcer
Prevention Council*

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Innovations in Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers

- Pressure ulcers are a cause of significant morbidity and mortality among hospitalized, institutionalized, and mobility-compromised individuals.
- “Getting to zero” for pressure ulcers is a top priority for VA, requiring focus on both the prevention of pressure ulcers across the continuum of care and the development and deployment of treatment strategies that improve the quality of care at the point of delivery.



Innovations in Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers

- VA is interested in proposals that provide innovative methods for both prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers.



**Getting
to
ZERO**



Areas of Consideration

- **Training**

- VA is interested in proposals that provide a comprehensive approach to pressure ulcer prevention, including innovation in the content and delivery of training for both staff and patients.

- **Treatment & Quality**

- VA is interested in proposals that address all aspects of the collection, tracking, and effective use of wound-related information.
- VA is interested in proposals that make use of collected data as the basis of a continuous improvement methodology.

- **Telehealth**

- VA is interested in proposals that increase the availability of specialized care for pressure ulcers. Proposals may include training and other means (such as telehealth technology) to improve the availability of care in outpatient clinics or in the home environment.
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Training Opportunities

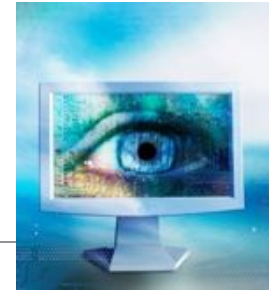
- Training for both staff and patients is a key component in the prevention of pressure ulcers.
- Training typically includes education regarding factors such as assessment of risk factors (decreased mobility, decreased activity, incontinence, immobility due to surgery or other procedures, changes in mental status, history of pressure ulcers, etc.), proper positioning and turning, nutrition and hydration, safety and prevention of breaks in skin, and use of preventive equipment.



Training

- Audience may include RN, LPN/LVNs, health technicians, and nursing assistants and is often performed during new employee orientation and during regular skills reviews.
- Inpatient care is most frequently covered, but home health settings and home caregivers are sometimes included.

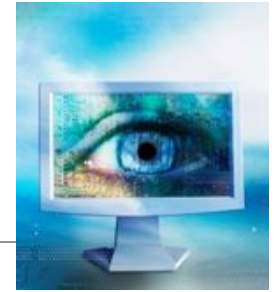




Treatment & Quality

- The treatment of pressure ulcers is greatly improved by the collection and tracking of clear, accurate, and consistent information throughout the continuum of care.
- The ability to track individual wounds, capturing such information as wound etiology, accurate and standardized staging, and quantified and standardized data on wound healing is of fundamental importance.
- Clinicians, home caregivers, and patients themselves may collect this information in a variety of inpatient, outpatient, and home health settings.





Treatment & Quality

- In addition to enabling high quality treatment for each patient, the collection and aggregation of data enables the use of analytics for the continuous improvement of pressure ulcer care. Evidence-driven improvements in the development of treatment best practice is an important part of ensuring that VA maintains the highest quality of care possible.



Telehealth Opportunities

- Many patients with wound care issues must visit a specialist to obtain appropriate skin care assessment, care, and treatment. Access to specialists can present difficulties, particularly for rural patients.
- Outpatient clinics frequently are not ideal settings for addressing wound care needs and seeking treatment in VA hospitals and regional facilities, or at medical centers outside the VA system, can involve significant travel and introduces care discontinuity.



Conclusions

- VA is interested in proposals that address all facets of the prevention of pressure ulcers and the delivery of high quality evidence-based wound care.
- While we mention above our particular interest in training, collection and tracking of data, access to specialized care, and continuous improvement, proposals may address all or part of the concepts described and may include other innovations that address the challenge of providing high quality treatment of pressure ulcers.

