

An anatomical illustration of the skin and underlying tissues. The top layer shows the epidermis with a grid of cells. Below it, the dermis contains various structures including hair follicles, sweat glands, and a network of nerves and blood vessels. The bottom layer shows the subcutaneous tissue with adipose cells. The entire illustration is rendered in a light blue and white color scheme with a subtle grid pattern.

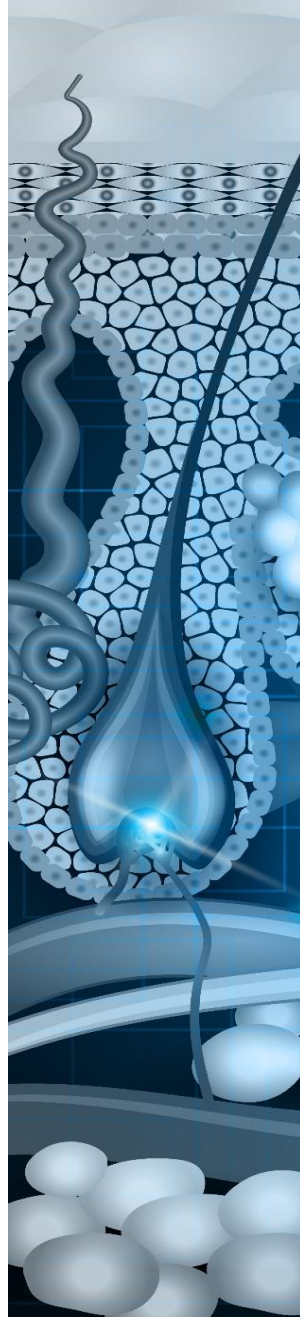
# **Bundle Up: Evidence-based Perioperative Pressure Injury Prevention**

Susan M. Scott, MSN, RN, WOC Nurse

# Faculty Disclosure

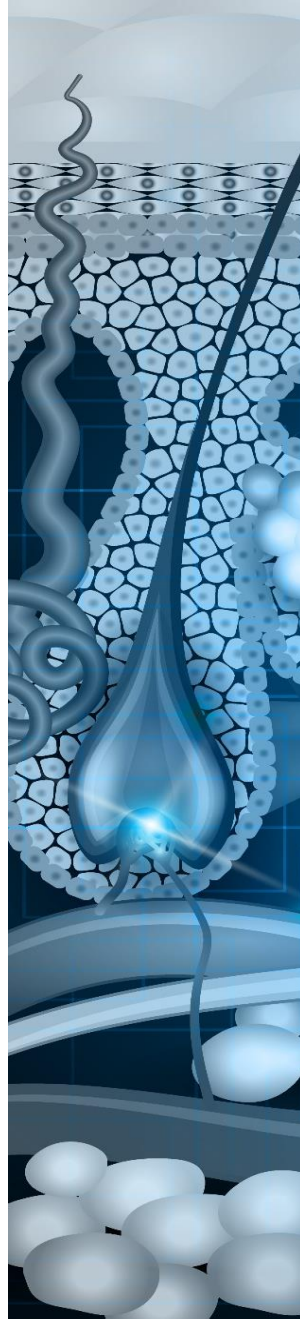
Susan M. Scott, MSN, RN, WOC Nurse

Consultant/Speakers' Bureau: Stryker/Sage Products



# Outcomes

1. Identify the factors that increase the risk of pressure injuries in the surgical patient.
2. Describe the role of the WOC nurse in creating strategies to reduce the incidence of hospital-acquired pressure injuries in the surgical population.

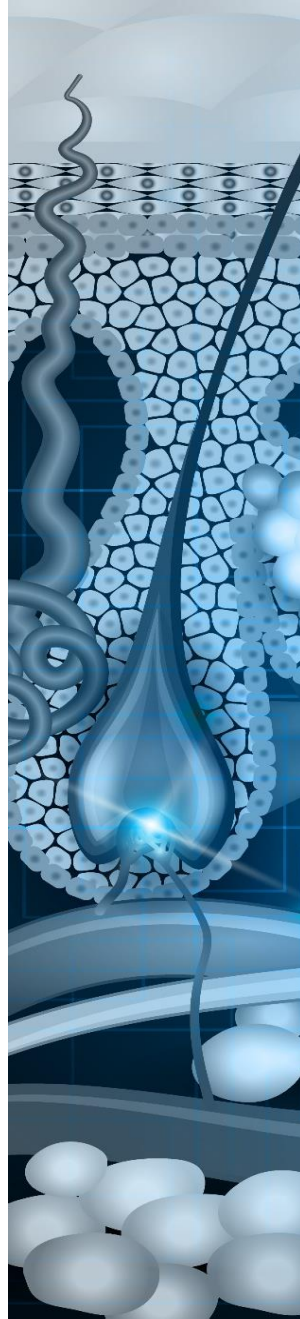
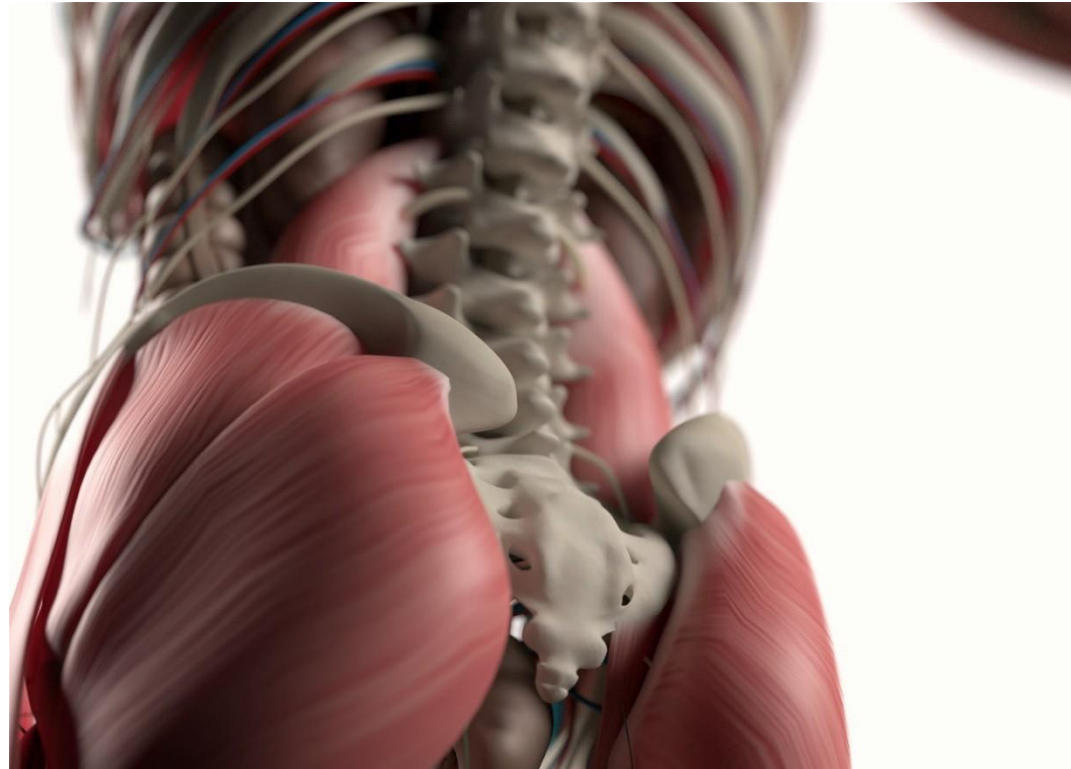




# Goals of Patient Positioning

“Protecting muscles, nerves, bony prominences, joints, skin, and vital organs from injury” *AORN 2017*

**Goal: Eliminate  
patient harm**



# Case Study Amy's Story - Reoperation



Photos used with permission Amy Green

**Scott Triggers ® PLLC**

# Perioperative Pressure Injury (PPI)

A perioperative pressure injury is any pressure-related tissue injury that presents as (non-blanchable erythema, purple discoloration or blistering) within 48-72 hours postoperatively and is associated with the surgical position or medical device.



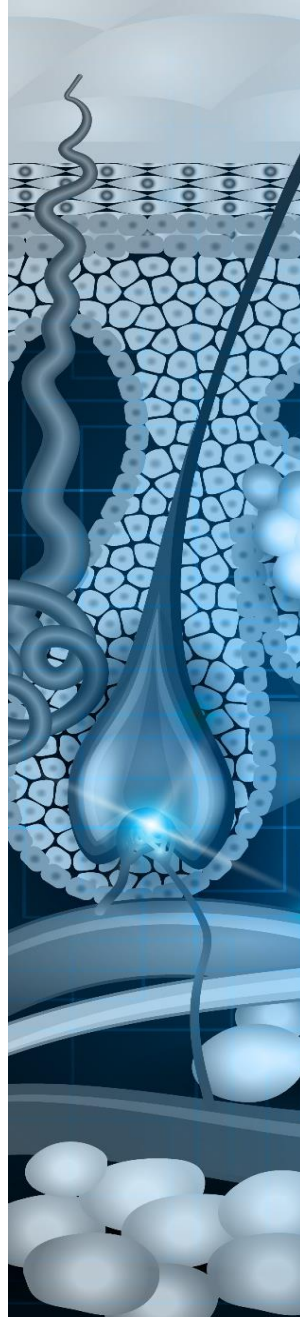


# AORN Position Statement PPI

AORN believes that:

- the **entire** health care team must collaborate to prevent pressure ulcer formation in the perioperative patient,
- pressure ulcer prevention should begin **before** the patient enters the surgical suite,
- **every** patient experiencing a surgical procedure should be assessed for **risk factors** that may lead to the development of a pressure ulcer,
- the pressure ulcer **risk assessment** and **skin assessment** should be communicated during **all** patient **hand overs**,
- education related to pressure ulcers in the OR should be performed **yearly**, and
- communication of pressure ulcer development **back to the surgical team** is imperative.

[Prevention of Perioperative Pressure Ulcers /Tool Kit. AORN. http://www.aorn.org/guidelines/clinical-resources/tool-kits/prevention-of-perioperative-pressure-ulcers-tool-kit.](http://www.aorn.org/guidelines/clinical-resources/tool-kits/prevention-of-perioperative-pressure-ulcers-tool-kit) Published December 31, 2015. Accessed April 29, 2016.



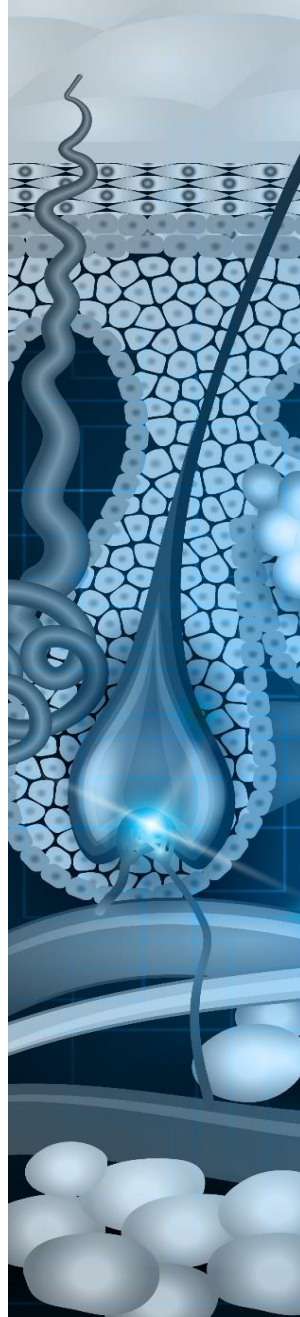
# Background



**Surgical  
Procedures**  
48.3 M in 2010  
53% Hospital  
47% Amb Surgery  
33% > age 65

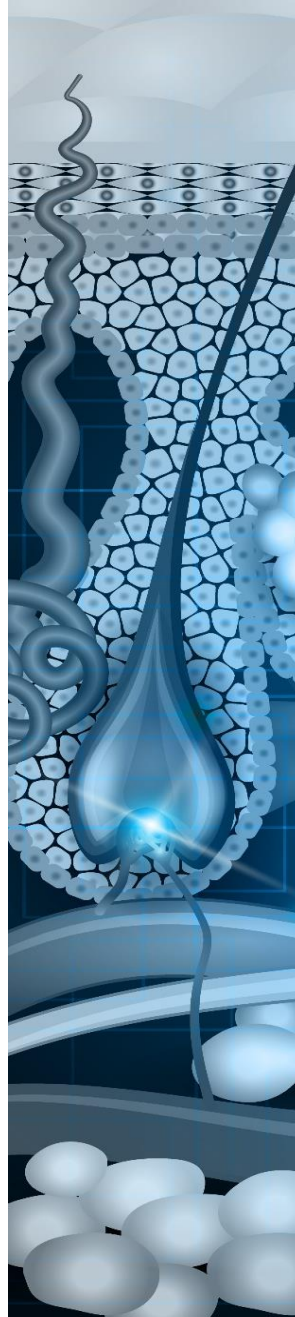
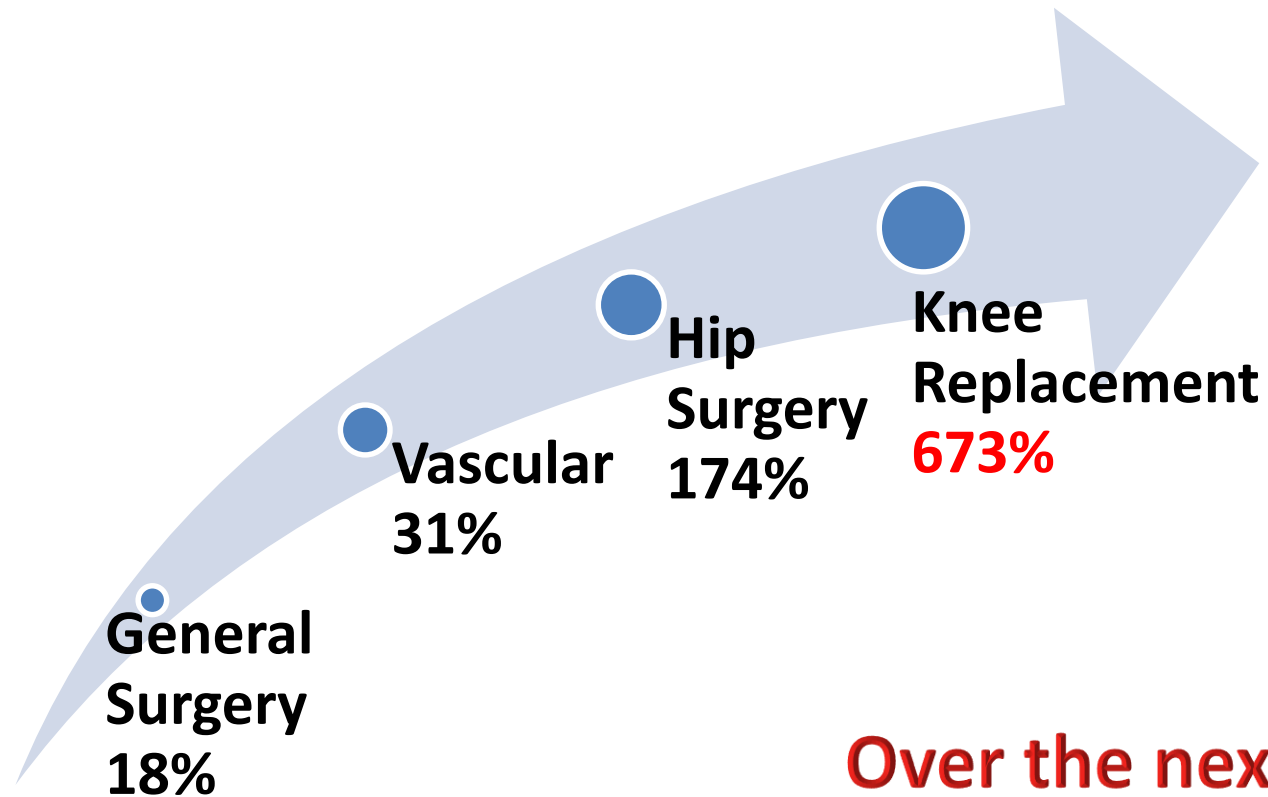
**\$11 Billion  
Hospital  
Acquired  
Pressure  
Ulcer  
(HAPU)**

**Incidence 0.3%-  
57% Mean 15%**  
**Hundreds of  
risk factors**  
**2 surgery  
specific tools**





# Aging Surgical Population



Over the next **20** years

An anatomical illustration of the skin layers, showing the epidermis, dermis, and subcutaneous tissue. A blue, translucent OR skin bundle is shown being applied to the skin. The bundle is a cylindrical structure with a mesh-like texture. It is being held in place by several white, wavy lines representing nerves or blood vessels. The background is a light blue grid pattern. The overall style is medical and scientific.

# OR Skin Bundle

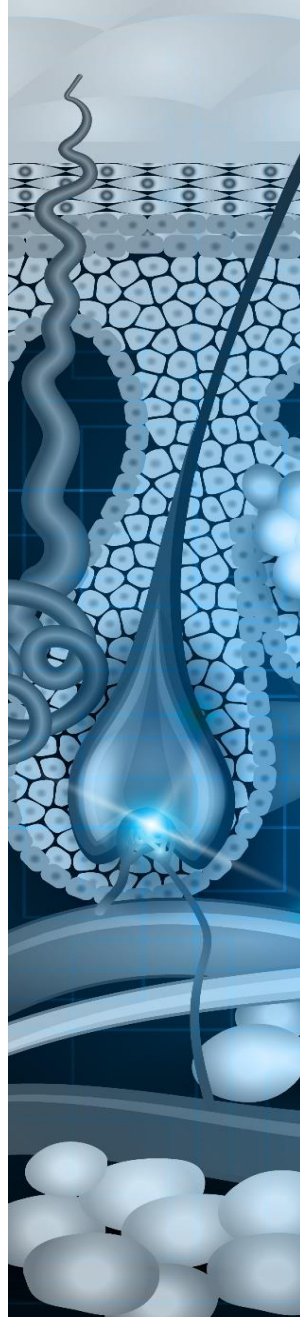
Susan M. Scott MSN, RN, WOC Nurse

Scott S. Use of an OR skin bundle to prevent pressure injury. *AORN Journal* 2017;106(4):P18-19.

**Scott Triggers® PLLC**

# Risk and OR Skin Bundle

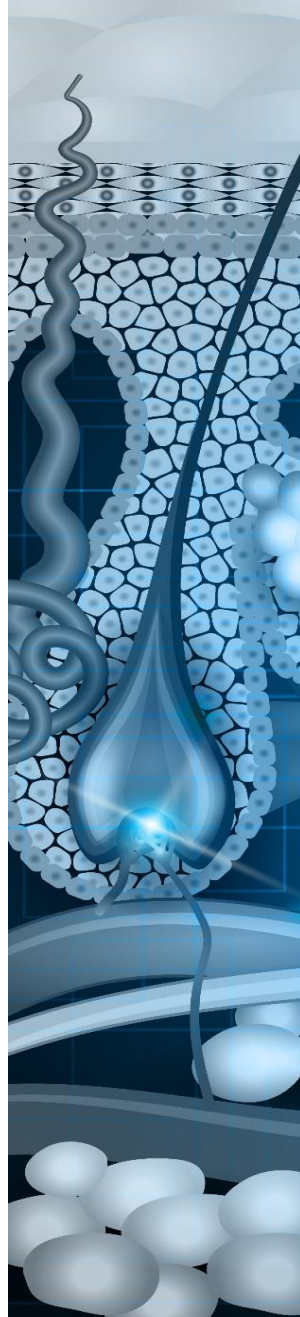
1. Risk and Skin assessment pre-op and immediately post-op;
2. Safe patient handling;
3. High specification OR table pads;
4. Redistribute pressure or padding bony prominences;
5. Offloading pressure on heels while maintaining knees in slight flexion;
6. Consider prophylactic dressing for bony prominences or under medical devices;





# Risk and OR Skin Bundle Continued

- 7. Avoid use of unapproved positioning devices;
- 8. Maintain normothermia and microclimate
- 9. Using hand-over communication i.e. IPASS;
- 10. Institute early movement, daily skin assessment and pressure management and
- 11. Reporting PIs that develop within 72 hours after the procedure.



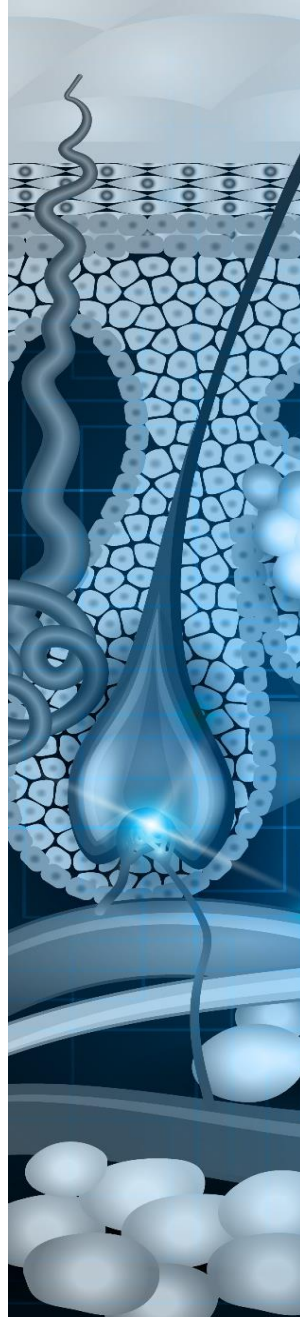
# Risk Assessment

“Perioperative RNs should use a structured risk assessment tool for preoperative assessment of the patient’s risk for pressure injury.” [1: *Strong Evidence*]

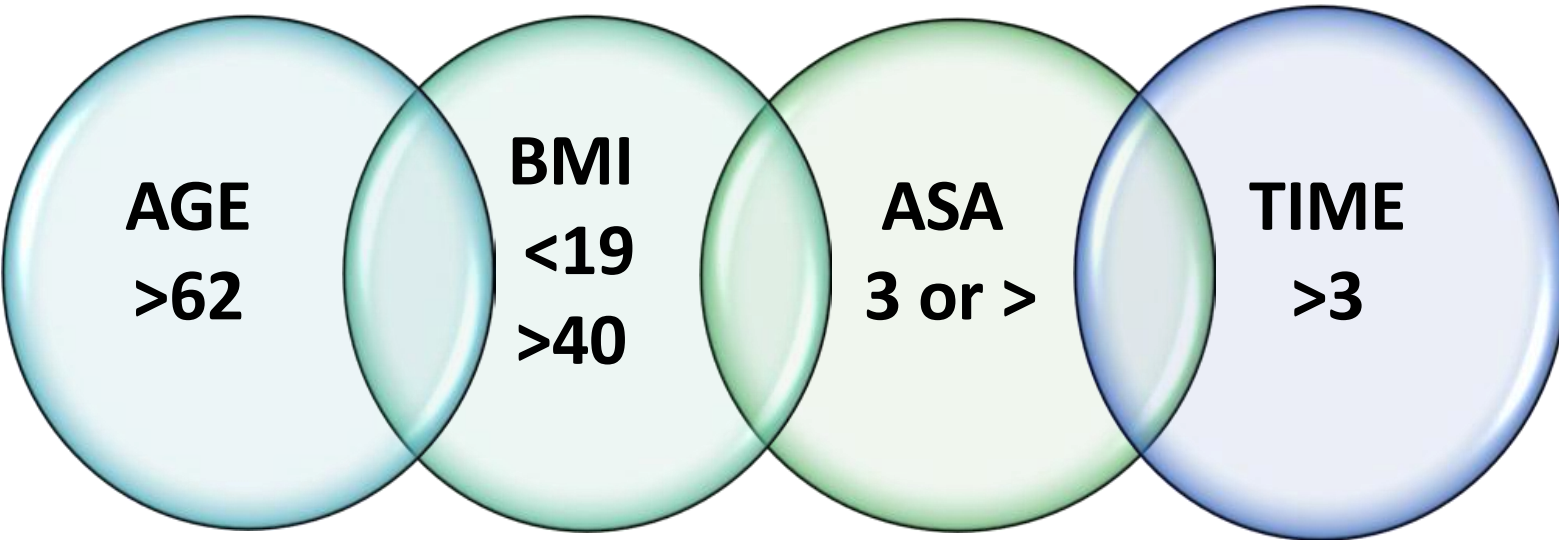


Suzy Scott & Barbara Braden

- Braden Scale
- Munro Scale
- Scott Triggers Tool
- Braden Q +P Scale



# Assess Pre-op



## SCOTT TRIGGERS®

Scott Triggers®	Does it meet these qualifications?	If YES, please place check here
Age	Age 62 or older	
Serum Albumin ____g/L or BMI	Albumin level <3.5 g/L or BMI <19 or >40	
ASA Score (Circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6	ASA score 3 or greater	
Estimated surgery time Hours/minutes	Surgery time over 3 hours or 180 minutes	
Two or more YESES =	<b>HIGH RISK SURGICAL PATIENT</b>	

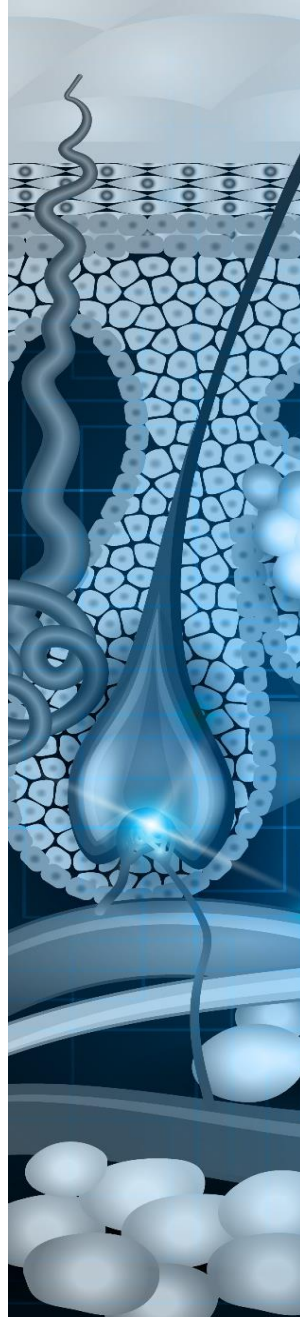


# Polling Question #1

Skin Assessment: In your setting how often do the perioperative nurses do a complete skin assessment of pressure points prior to surgery?

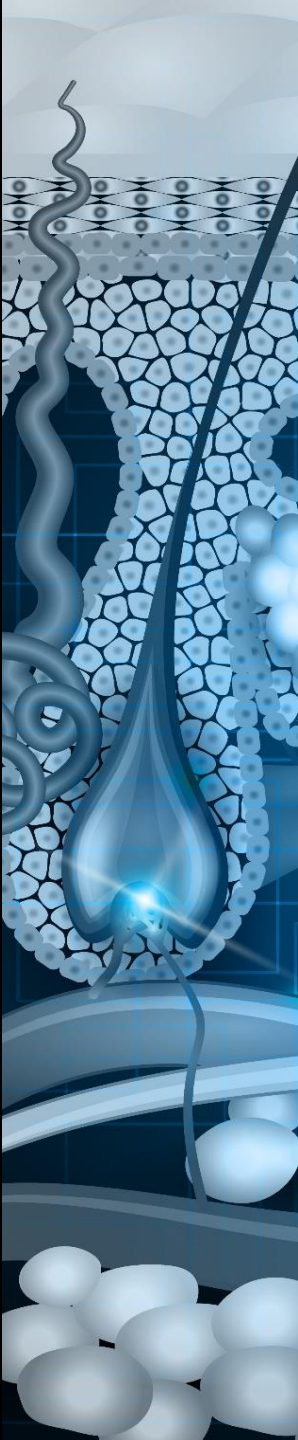
Enter Answer options

- A. Always
- B. Very Often
- C. Sometimes
- D. Rarely
- E. Never



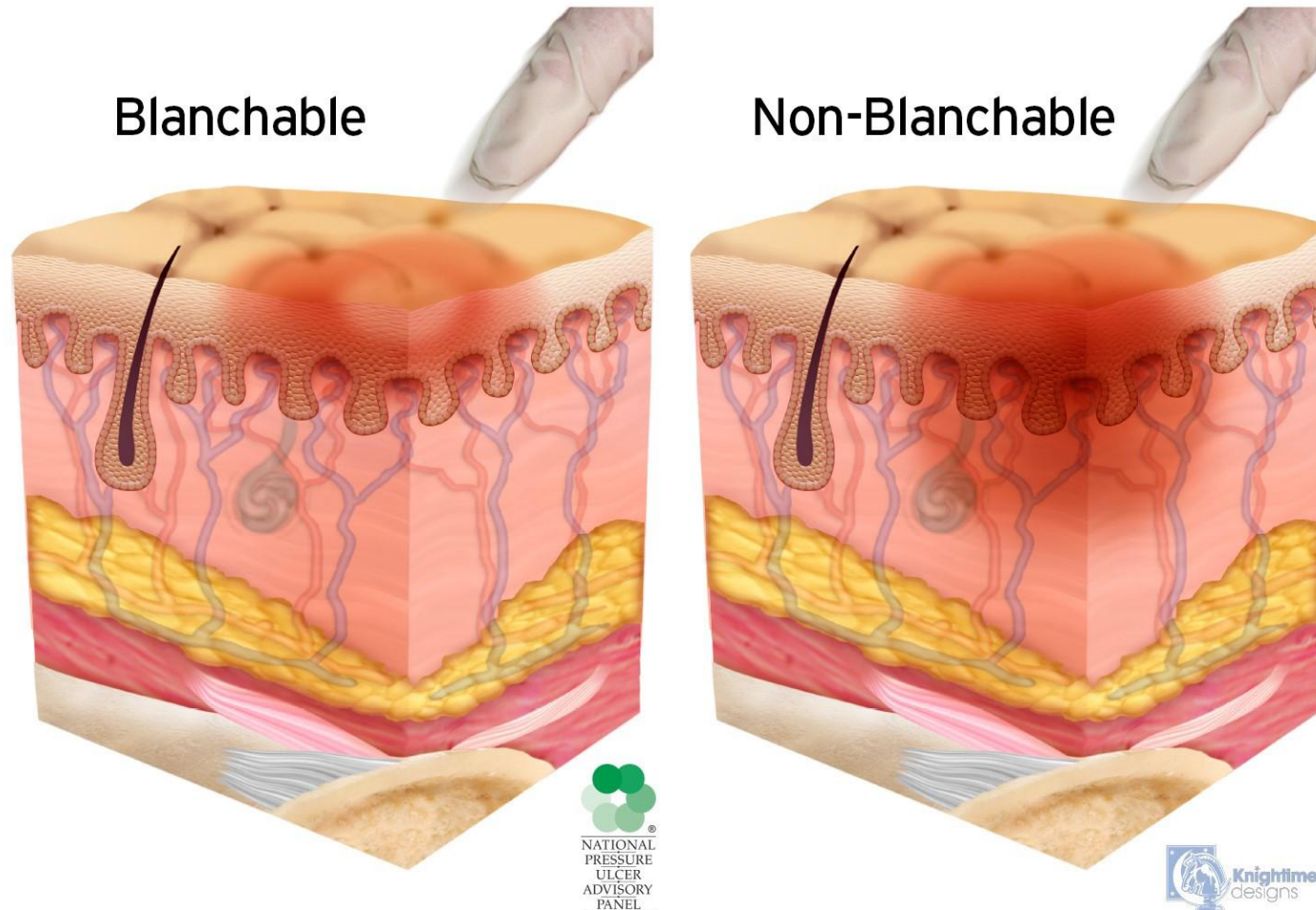


**Skin  
Assessment  
on admission  
and per policy**

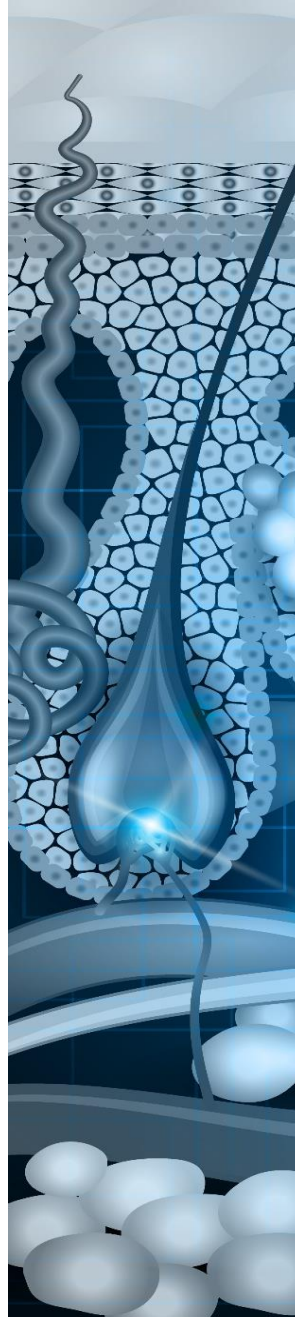


# Skin Assessment

## Blanchable vs Non-Blanchable



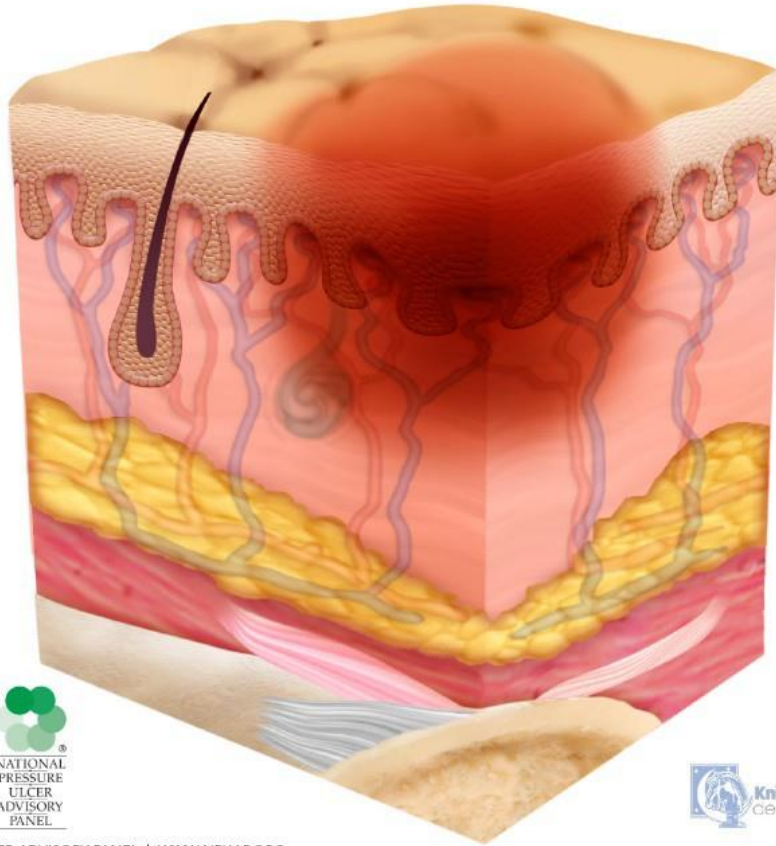
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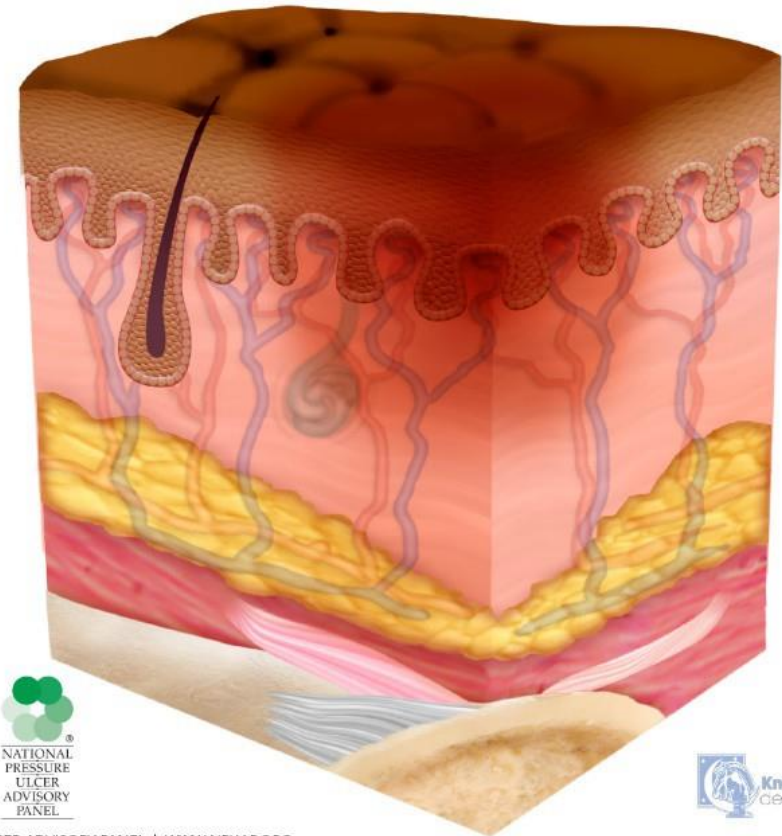


# Stage 1 Pressure Injury (PI)

Stage 1 Pressure Injury - Lightly Pigmented

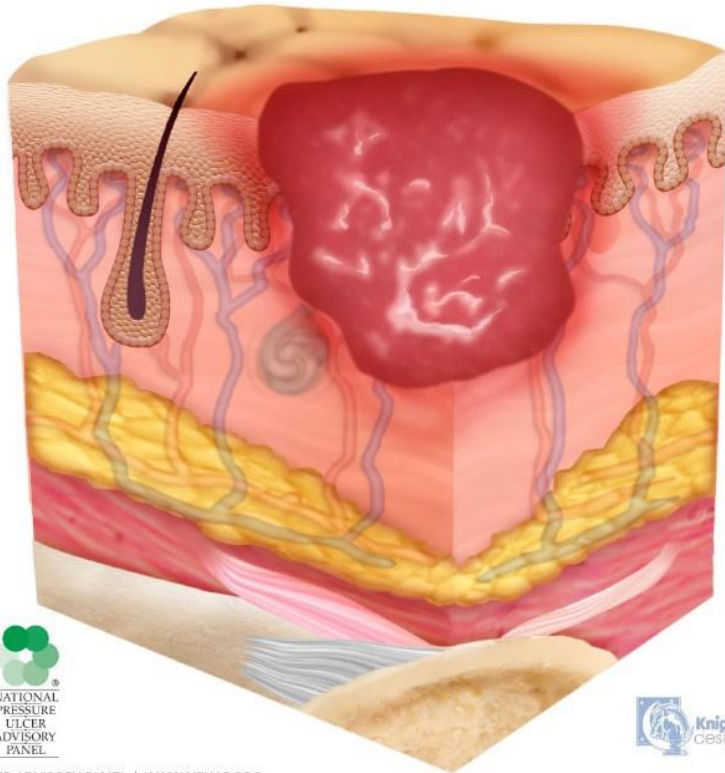


Stage 1 Pressure Injury – Darkly Pigmented



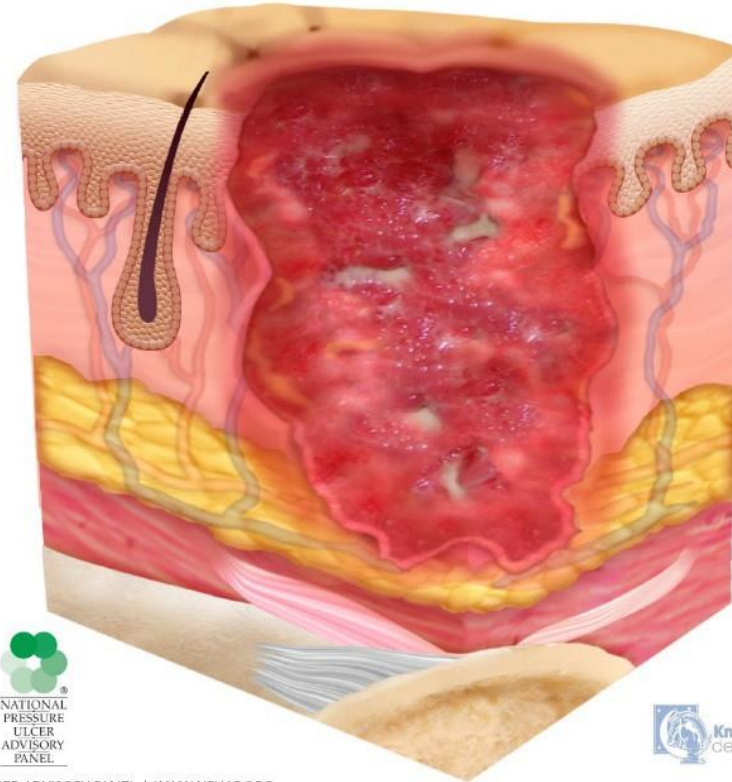
# Stage 2 & 3 Pressure Injury

Stage 2 Pressure Injury

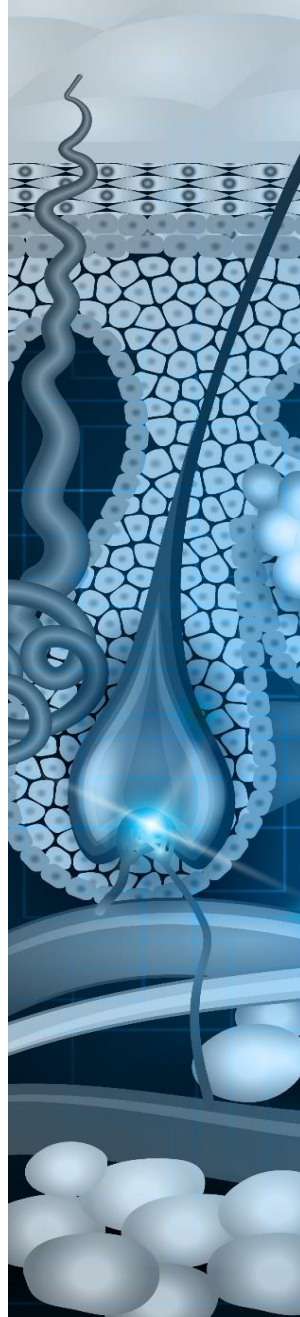


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Stage 3 Pressure Injury



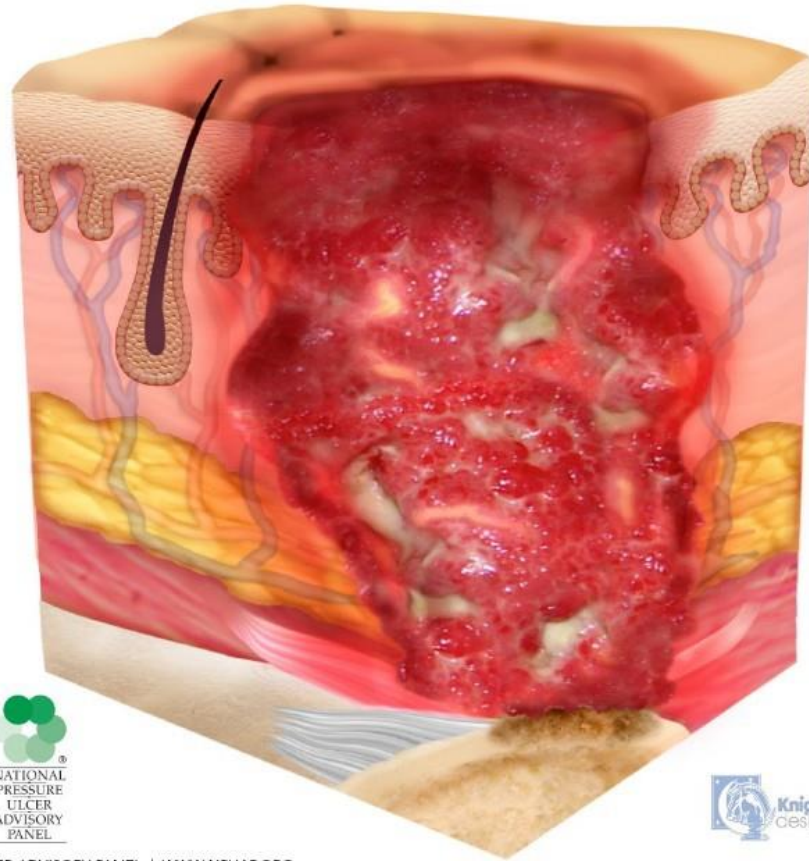
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# Stage 4 PI & Unstageable

Stage 4 Pressure Injury



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Unstageable Pressure Injury - Dark Eschar

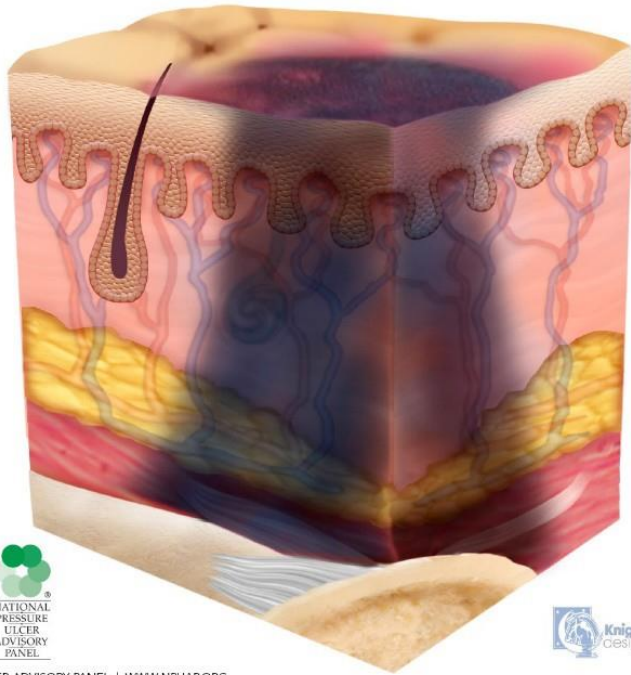


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# Deep Tissue Pressure Injury

Deep Tissue Pressure Injury



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**Skin Slippage**



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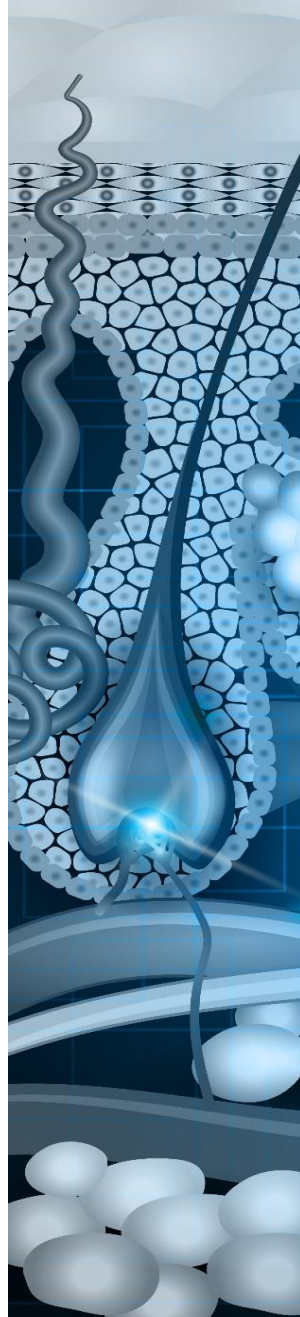
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# **Safe Patient Handling**

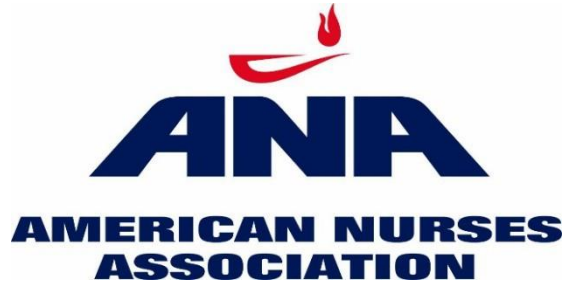


# Nursing Impact





# SPH Wide Spread Response

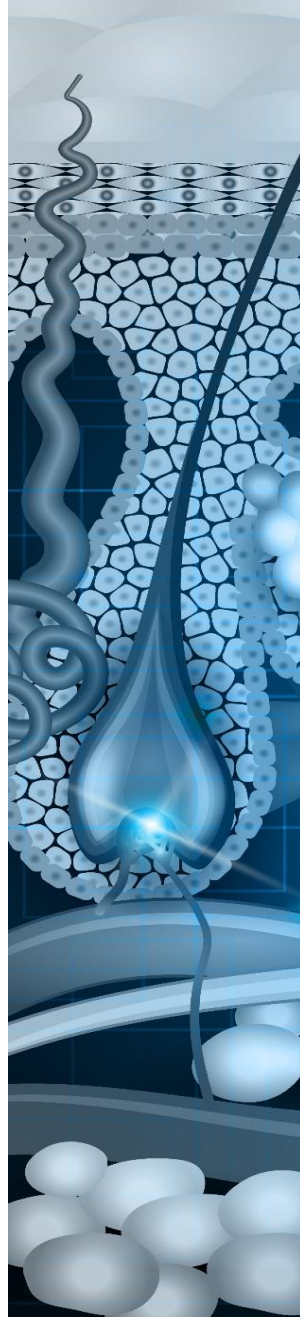


- 11 States have enacted Safe Patient Handling legislation
- Introduction of the Nurse & Health Care Worker Protection Act of 2013
- OSHA & The Joint Commission renew alliance to protect safety & health of health care workers
- OSHA to increase fines for HCW injuries
- American Nurses Association (ANA) released *Safe Patient Handling & Mobility: Interprofessional National Standards*



# Safe Patient Handling (SPH)

- Injuries are common and costly
- Incidence rates
- Patients have 6 or more lateral transfers
- Nursing impact
- Risk factors in the OR
- What are the Myths
  - Lift limits 35 lbs.
- Legislation



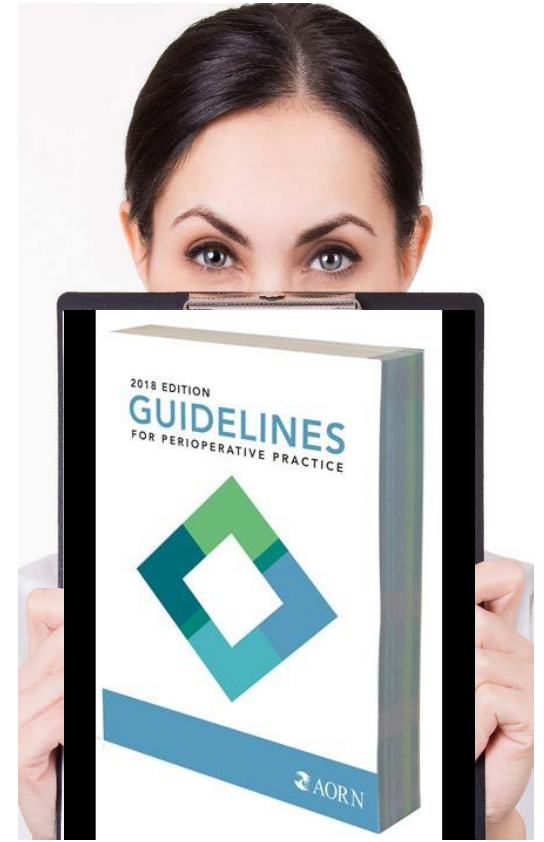
# SPH Recommendations

## Essential Task Elements

- Maintain the patient's body alignment & airway & support extremities during transfer to protect the patient from a positioning injury

## Task Recommendations

- General Lateral Transfer
  - Use lateral transfer device that extends the length of the patient (e.g., slider board)
  - Destination surface should be slightly lower

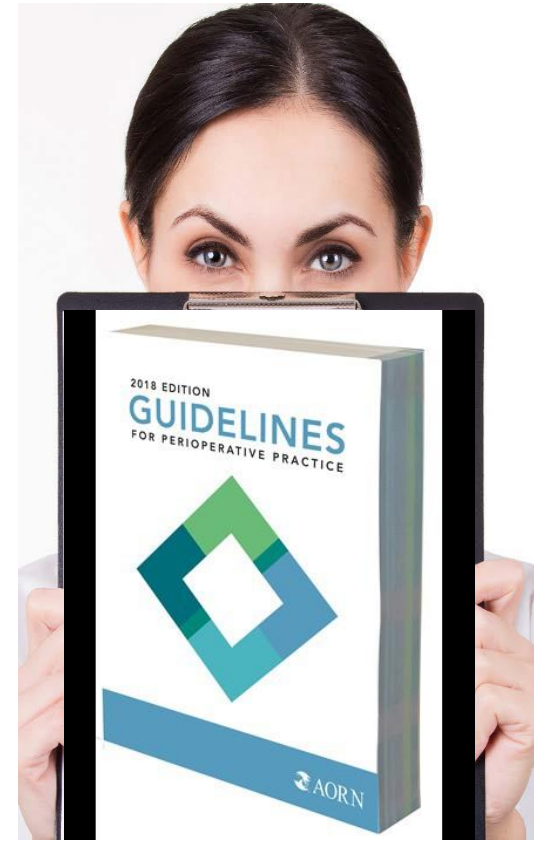




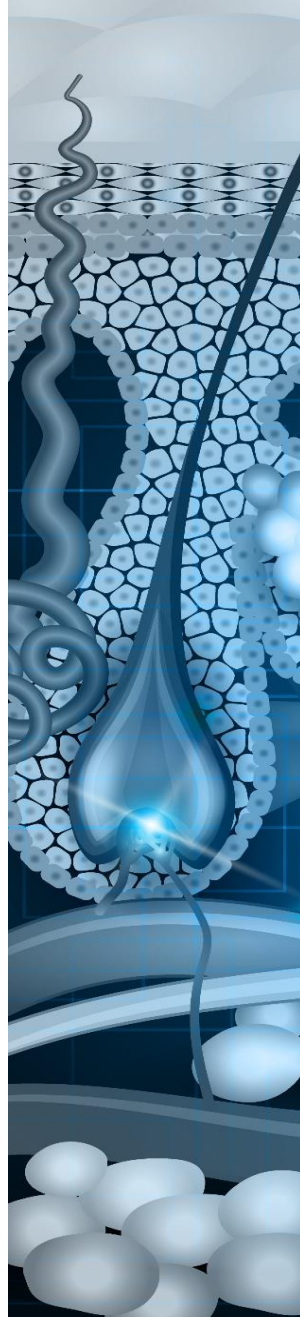
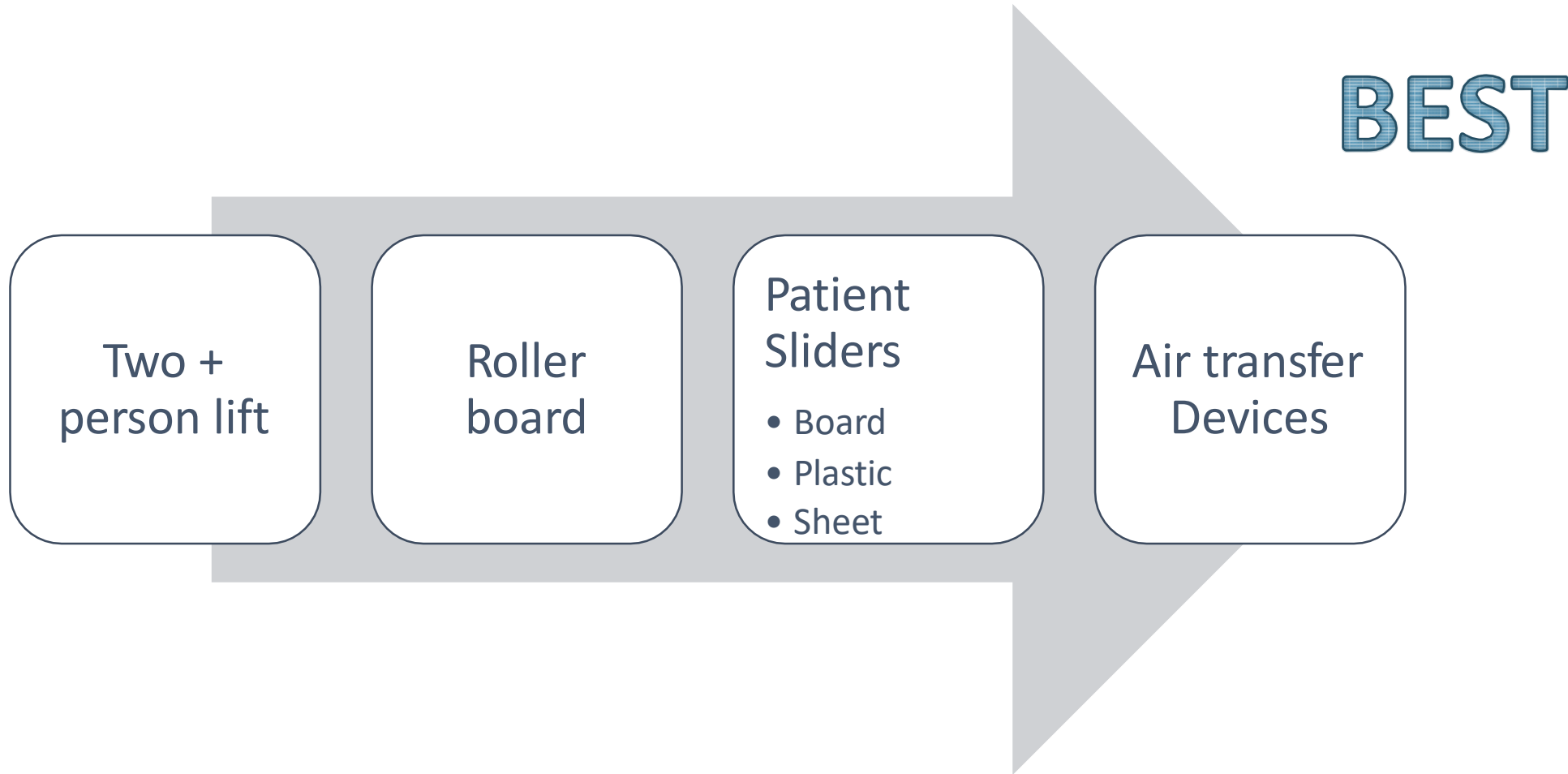
# SPH Guidelines

## Supine

- Anesthesiologist supports head and neck
  - Weight < 157 lb.
    - Use lateral transfer device & 4 caregivers
  - Weight > 157 lb.
    - Use mechanical lift with supine sling, mechanical lateral transfer device, or air-assisted lateral transfer device & 3 to 4 caregivers



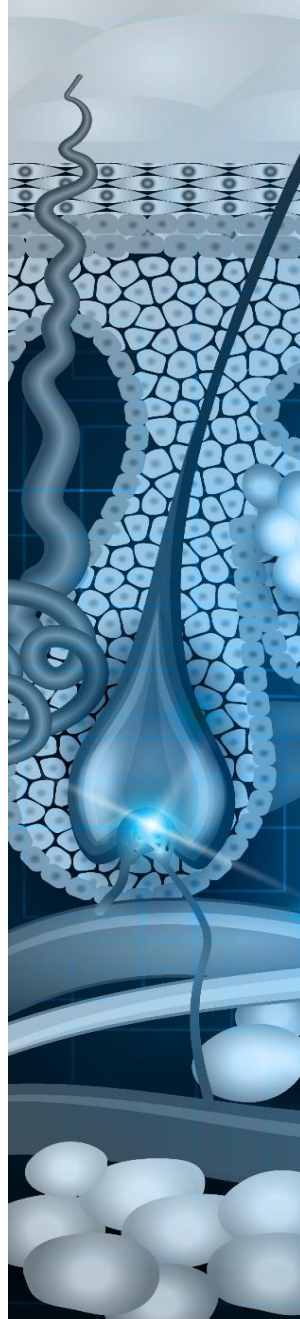
# Types of Lateral Transfer Devices



# Air Transfer Benefits



- Radiolucent
- No skin shear
- Pain free transfers
- Less injuries





An anatomical illustration of a human foot, showing the skin, nerves, and bones. A blue grid is overlaid on the foot, and several blue dots are scattered across it. The text "High Specification OR Table Pads" is centered over the foot.

# High Specification OR Table Pads

Susan Scott

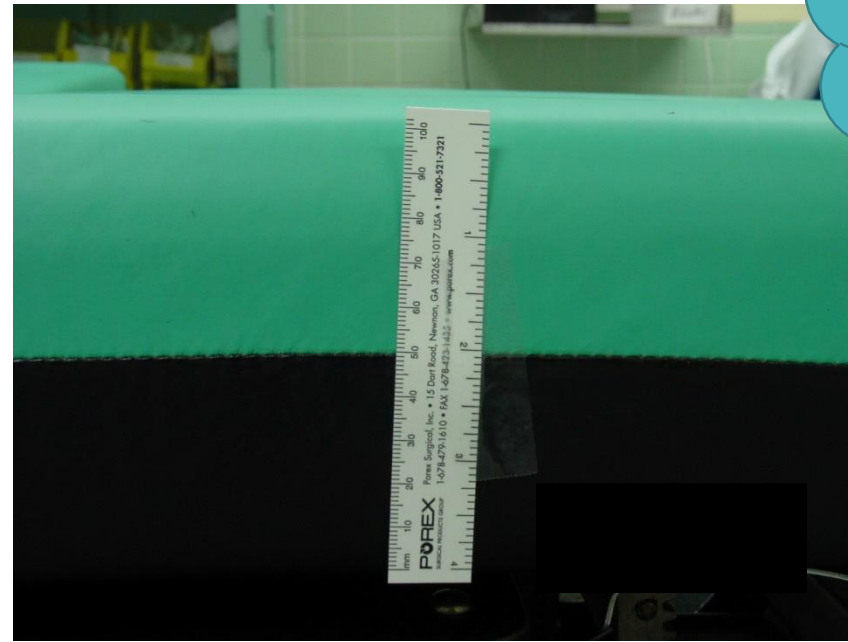
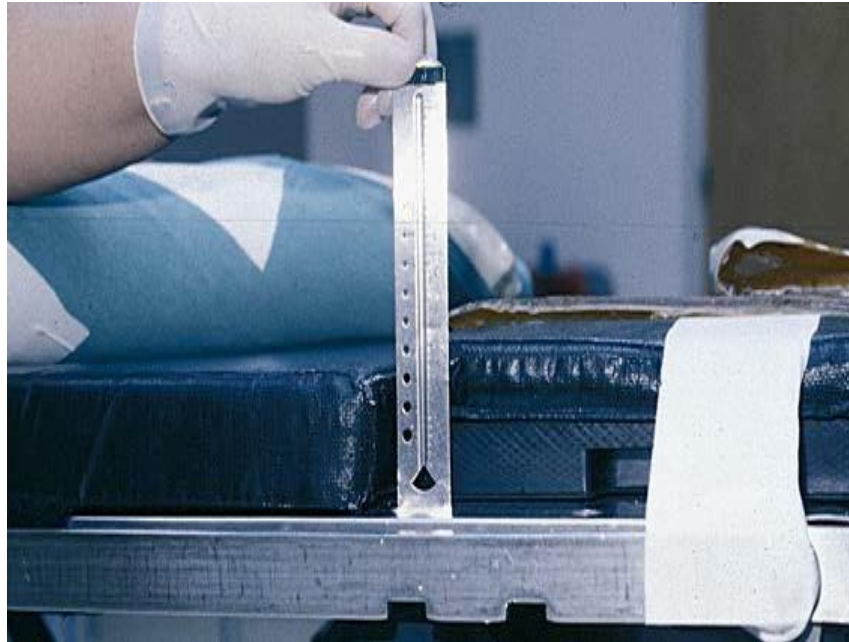
# High Specification OR Table Pads

- Non Powered
  - Foam alternatives:  
Viscoelastic,
  - Gel/foam combination
  - Air
- Powered
  - Limited evidence
  - Fluid Immersion Simulation
  - Alternating air overlays



## Life Expectancy of Surface

# Memphis, TN VA Study



Weight  
Limit?

Patients were eight times more likely to develop a pressure injury on the standard pad versus the high specification pad



# Tissue Interface Pressure Measurement

Occiput



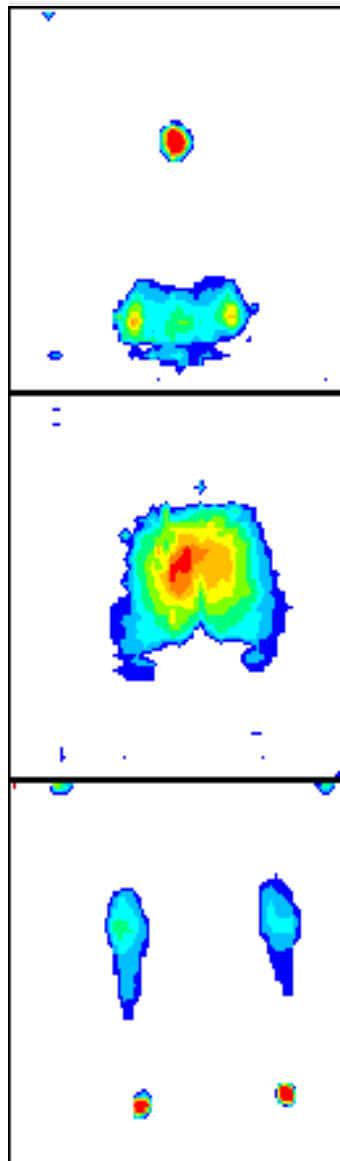
Sacral



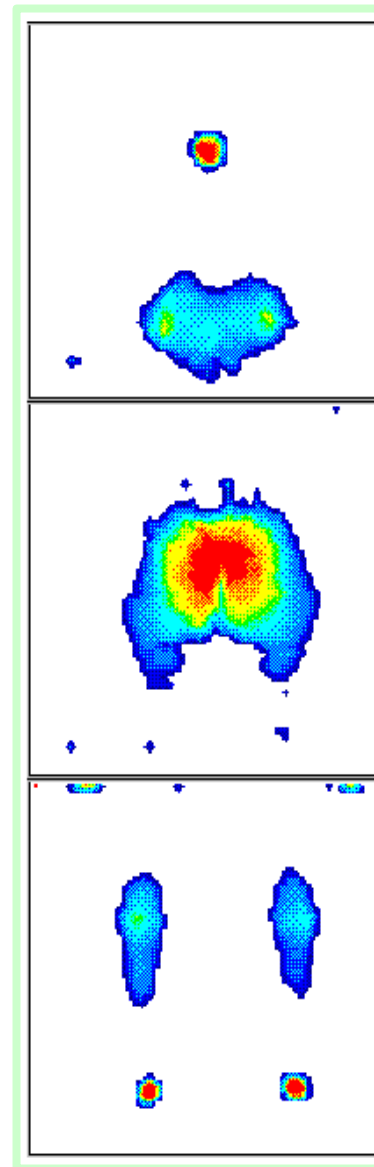
Heels



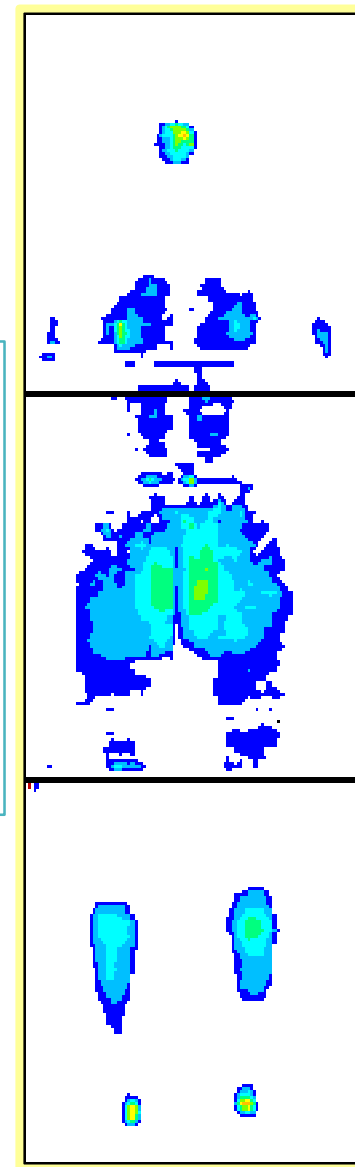
Standard



Standard & Gel



Visco-elastic



An anatomical illustration of a foot, viewed from the side, with a focus on the plantar surface. The illustration is rendered in a light blue and white color scheme. It shows the skin, underlying muscles, and bones. Several areas are highlighted with bright blue, glowing spots, indicating points of high pressure or bony prominences. These spots are located on the heel, the ball of the foot, and the toes. The text "Redistribute Pressure and/or Pad Bony Prominences" is overlaid in the center of the image. The background features a grid pattern and some wavy lines representing the foot's structure.

# **Redistribute Pressure and/or Pad Bony Prominences**

# Redistribute pressure and/or pad bony prominences



Supine

Lithotomy

Prone

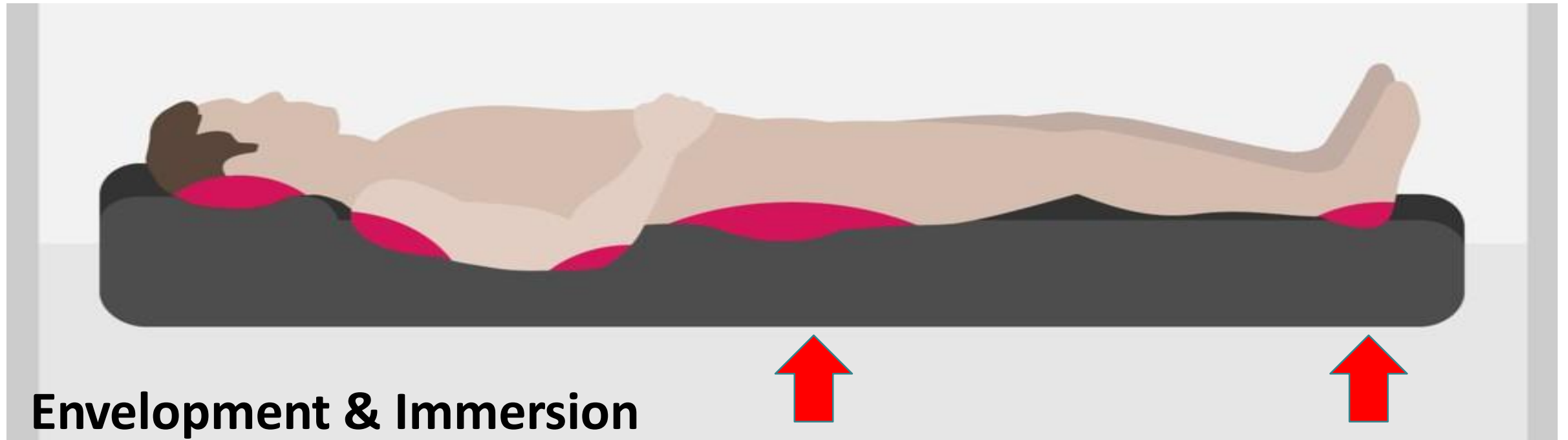
Trendelenburg

Lateral/Jack Knife



# Supine

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# Alopecia



**Reposition  
head every  
30 minutes**

- Pressure injury of the occiput can result in alopecia (hair loss) which may be permanent or temporary.
- Most common site for ulcers in pediatrics is the occiput cardiac surgery.

# Lithotomy

- Procedures
  - Obstetrics and gynecological procedures
  - Genitourinary procedures
- Pressure Points
  - Occiput
  - Shoulders
  - Scapulae
  - Hips
  - Sacrum/coccyx
  - Lateral aspect of the legs
  - Heels






# Lithotomy Prevention Plan

- Careful placement of buttocks do not extend over break of bed.
- Pad lateral aspect of upper fibula
- Avoid prolonged (>2 hour) exposure in Lithotomy position
- Avoid Candy Cane and crutch stirrups linked with nerve injury
- Boot type stirrups reduce stretching of nerves



# Prone

## Complications



Hemodynamic
Ophthalmologic
Neurologic
Myocutaneous



Photography supplied courtesy of STERIS Corporation.

Walton-Greer, P. Prevention of pressure ulcers in the surgical patient. *AORN Journal*, 2009;(89)3: 538-48. DePasse JM, Palumbo MA, Haque M, Eberson CP, Daniels AH. Complications associated with prone positioning in elective spinal surgery. *World J Orthop* 2015; 6(3): 351-359 Available from: URL: <http://www.wjnet.com/2218-5836/full/v6/i3/351.htm> DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5312/wjo.v6.i3.351>

# Prone Injury

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**Prone injury from towel roll**

## Pressure Areas

- Forehead, eyes, ears, and chin
- Anterior shoulders
- Lower costal margins
- Breasts (implants)
- Iliac crest
- Genitalia (Penis, scrotum, perineum)
- Knees
- Shins
- Dorsum of the feet
- Toes

Walton-Greer, P. (2009). Prevention of pressure ulcers in the surgical patient. AORN Journal, (89)3. 538-548. Lumbley et al. Retrospective review of predisposing factors for intraoperative pressure ulcer development. Journal of Clinical Anesthesia. 2014; 26 :368-374.



# Blanket vs Pillow Interface Pressure

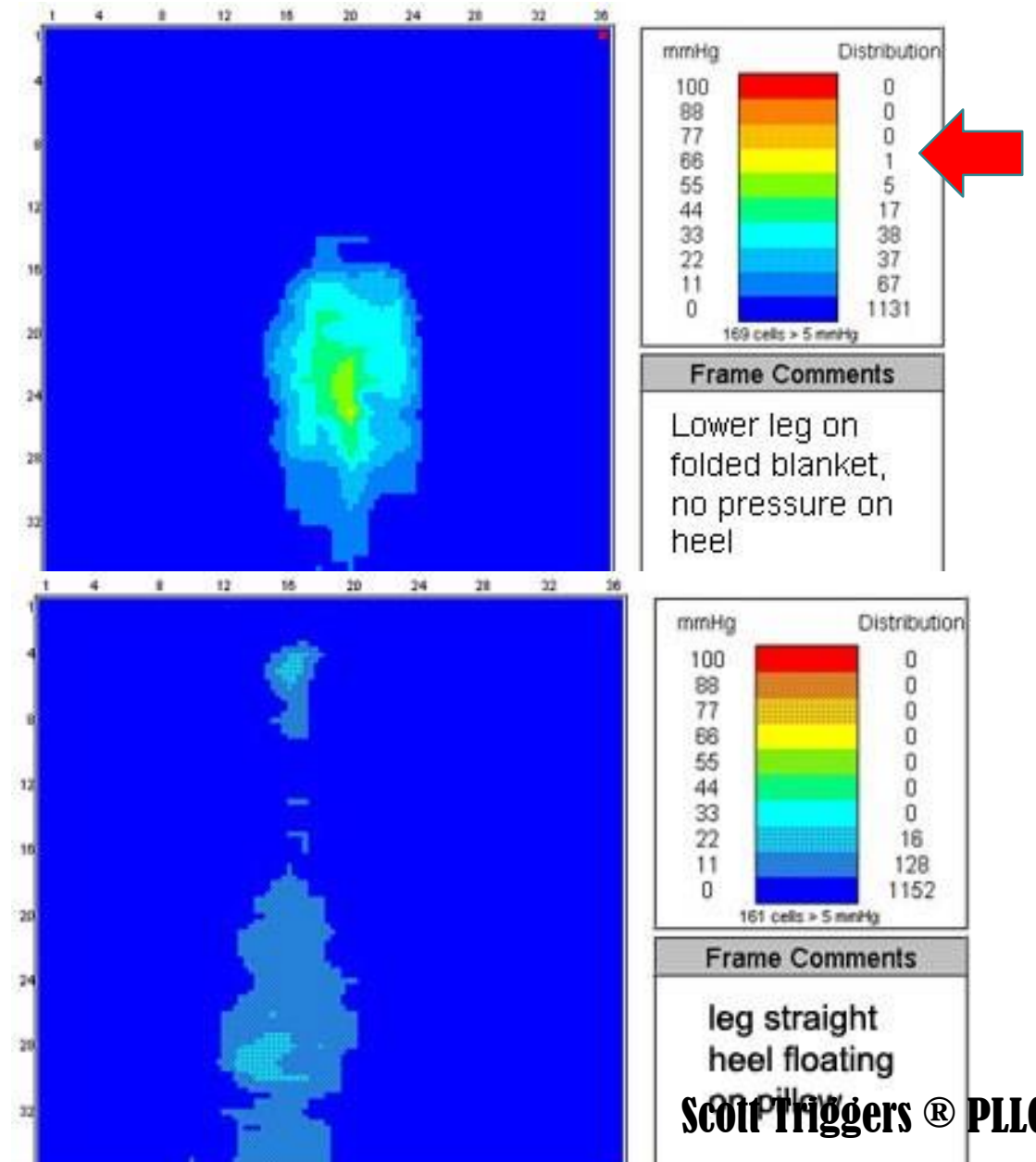


Capillary  
closing  
pressure

**32 mmHg**



Select  
pillows with  
18 oz. fill



# Prone Prevention Plan

- Face pillows
- Prophylactic dressings
- Pad bony prominences
- Pressure redistribution positioning devices
- Inspect spinal table pads every 6 months



# Trendelenburg

- Procedures
  - Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS)
  - Laparoscopic
  - Robotic
  - OB/GYN procedures
  - Genitourinary procedures

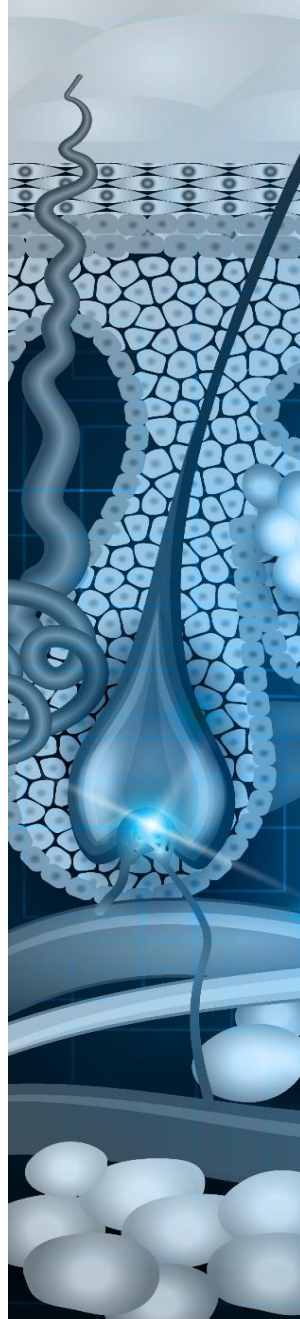


Photo used with permission D. A. Surgical <http://www.dasurgical.com>

Allen, D Positioning and the Surgical Robot. *Surgical Products* (2013) Retrieved at <http://www.surgicalproductsmag.com/article/2013/02/positioning-and-surgical-robot>



# Trendelenburg



- Safety Issues
  - Sliding, friction, shear
- Use a high level table pad
- Shoulder braces linked to brachial plexus nerve injury
- Restraints must not incorporate crossing chest straps to assure proper respiration

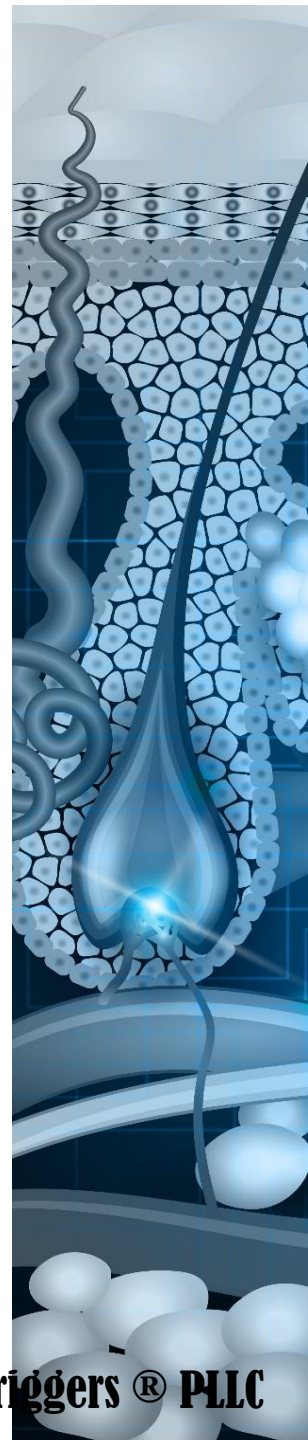


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Allen, D Positioning and the Surgical Robot. *Surgical Products* (2013) Retrieved at <http://www.surgicalproductsmag.com/article/2013/02/positioning-and-surgical-robot>

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# Lateral

- Procedures
  - Chest, Lung, Kidney, Hip
- Pressure Points
  - Dependent side of face and ear
  - Dependent shoulder
  - Arms
  - Dependent axilla
  - Dependent hip
  - Legs
  - Dependent knee
  - Ankles
  - Feet



Photography supplied courtesy of STERIS Corporation.

Walton-Greer, P. (2009). Prevention of pressure ulcers in the surgical patient. AORN Journal, (89)3. 538-548.

# Lateral Prevention Plan



- Head aligned, torso stabilized, lower arm is slightly forward, bottom leg flexed padding between legs.
- Pad lateral aspect of upper fibula
- Stabilizing devices (Beanbag/Vacuum) linked to Rhabdomyolysis



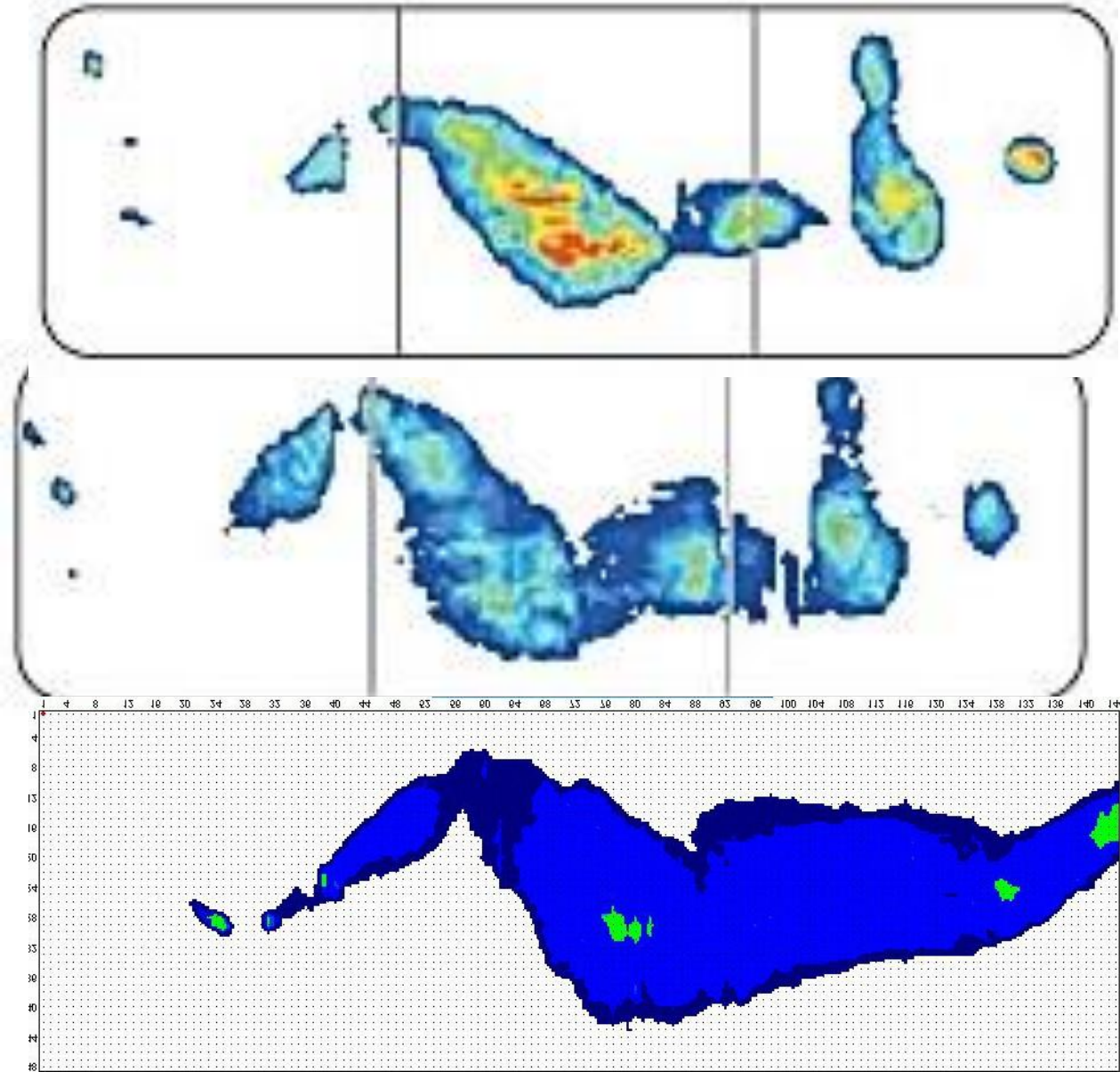
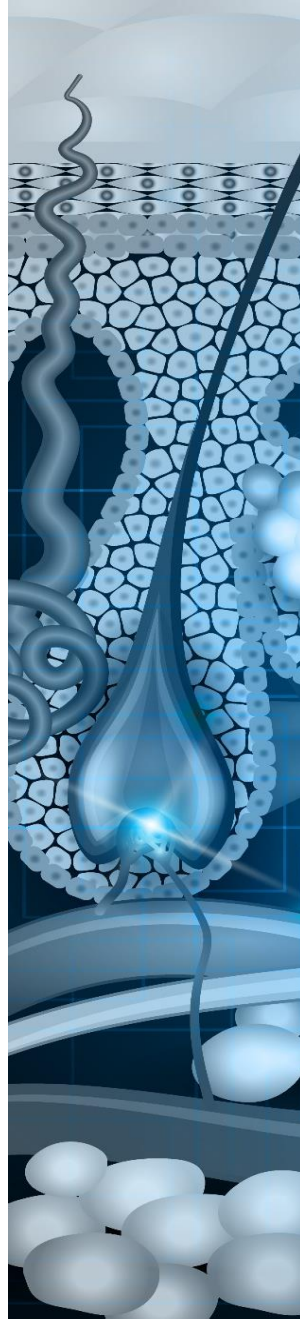
Photography supplied courtesy of STERIS Corporation.

Walton-Greer, P. (2009). Prevention of pressure ulcers in the surgical patient. AORN Journal, (89)3. 538-548.



# Tissue Interface Pressure Measurement

Envelopment  
Immersion



# Lateral Positioner

## *Vacuum-packed Positioning Device*

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**Before**



**After**



Device can increase pressure on nerves, muscles and over bony prominence.

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# Device related Pressure Injury - Lateral

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**No Protective padding or dressings (82)**



**Protective dressing applied pre-op (72)**





# Medical Device Related Pressure Injury (MDRPI)

- Anesthesia devices
- Face plates in prone position
- External fixators
- Urinary catheters & tubing
- Vacuum-Packed Positioning Device
- Bookwalter
- Mayo stands on the toes
- Safety straps
- Compression stockings



# Medical Device Related Pressure Injury (MDRPI)

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**Robotic arm**



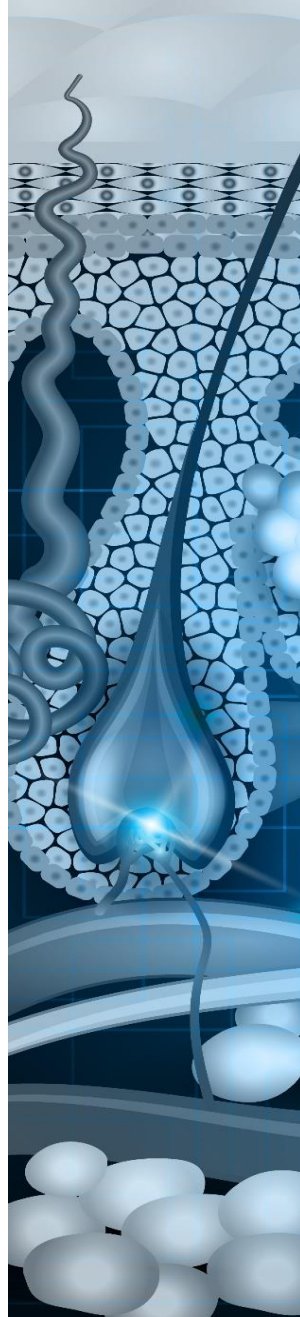
**Compression Stockings**




Photo used with permission L. Minnich PACU JMCC

# Mitigation for Medical Device-Related Pressure Injury (MDrPI)

- Meticulous patient positioning with attention to rigid devices and contact with bony prominence
- Manufacturer Instructions for Use (IFU)
- Pressure-redistribution padding
- Prophylactic dressing
- Ensure patient is not lying on tubes or bed trash

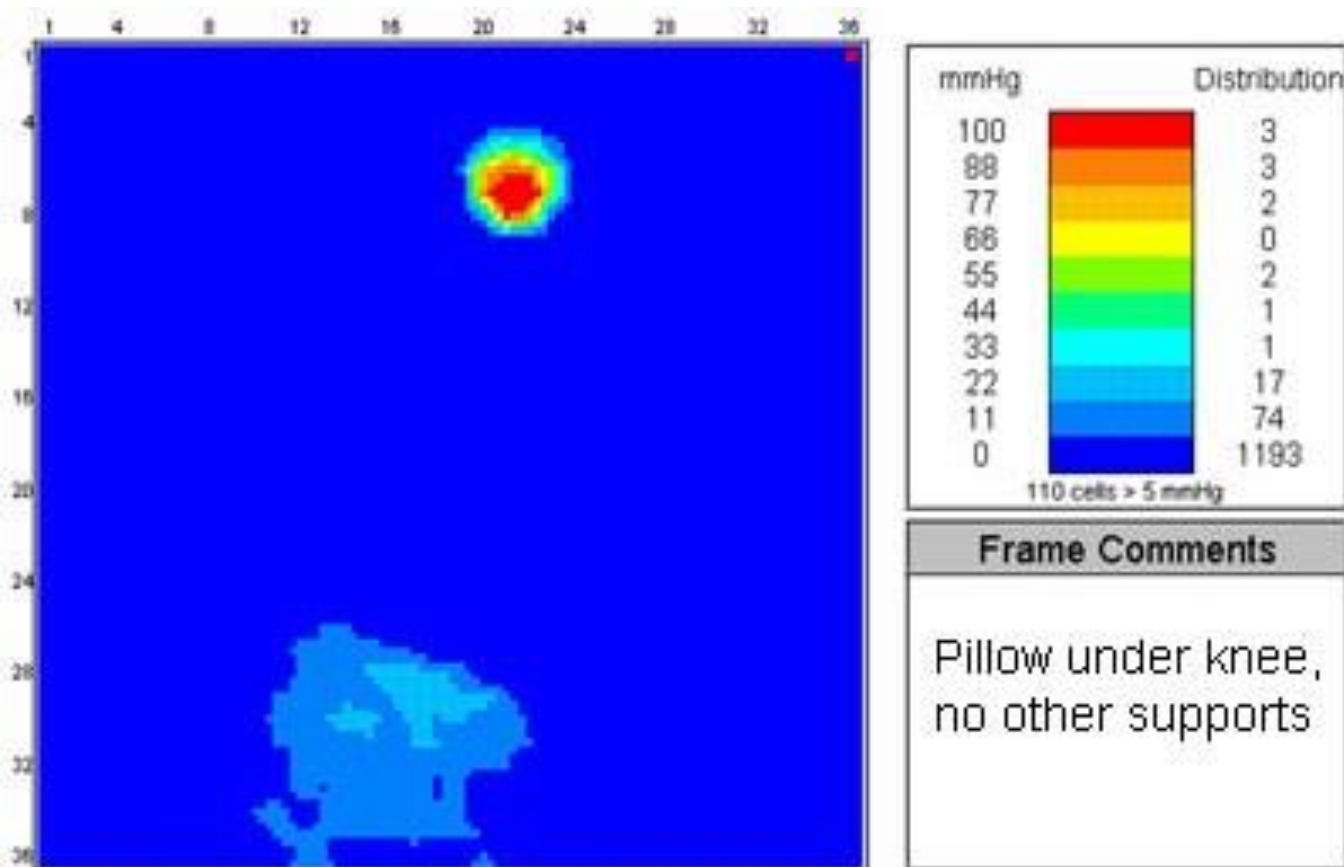




An anatomical illustration of a heel cross-section. The top layer is the epidermis, followed by the dermis containing various nerve endings and sweat glands. Below the skin is the calcaneus (heel bone). The text is overlaid on the central part of the image.

**Offload pressure on heels  
while maintaining knees  
in slight flexion**

# Heels are Vulnerable in Supine and Lithotomy Positions



Schoonhoven and Scott 52.9% and 52% respectively

# Use Heel Off Loading Devices (HOLD)



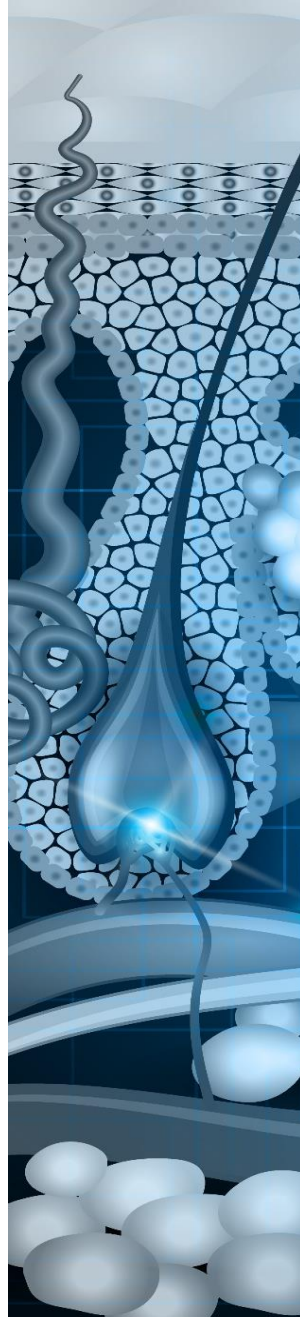
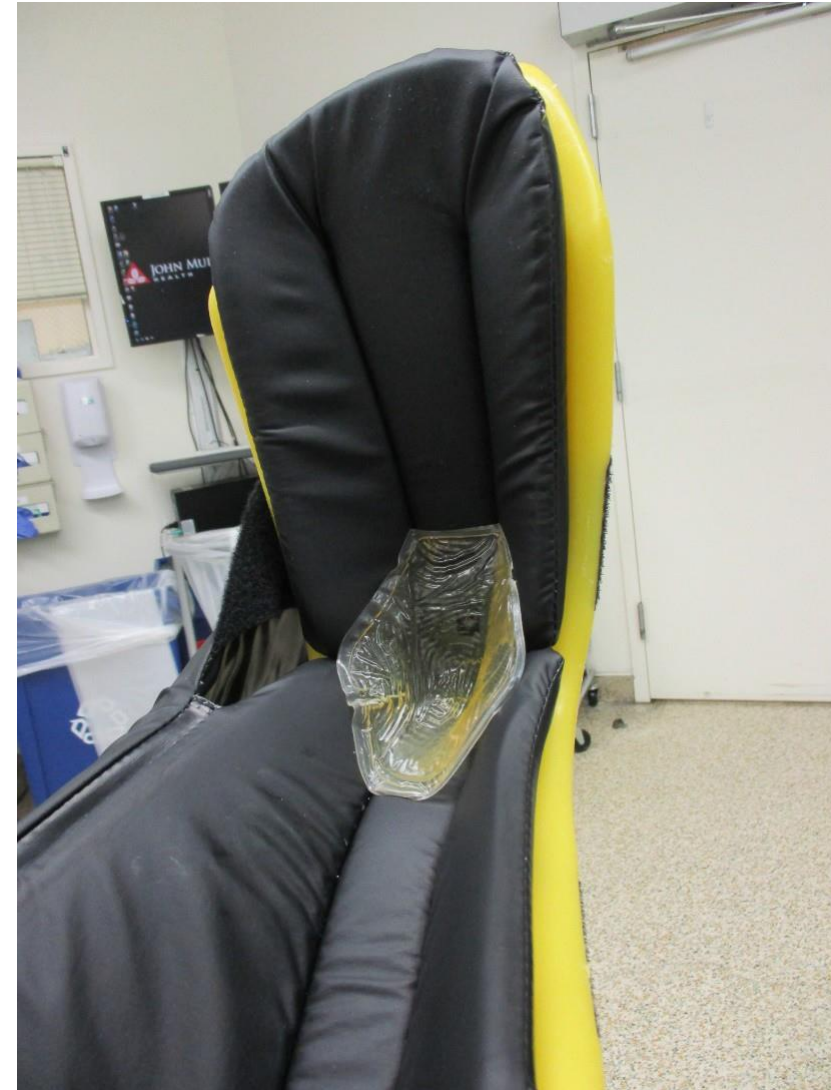
Offload the heel & distribute the weight of the leg along the calf without putting all the pressure on the Achilles tendon. Hyperextension of knee, can lead to popliteal vein compression and increase risk of DVT.



An anatomical illustration of the skin and underlying tissues. The top layer shows the epidermis with a grid of cells. Below it is the dermis, containing various structures like hair follicles, sweat glands, and nerve fibers. Some nerve fibers are shown with blue highlights, suggesting electrical activity or sensory input. The bottom layer shows the subcutaneous tissue with a layer of white, oval-shaped cells or fat. The overall color scheme is light blue and white, with a grid pattern in the background.

**Consider prophylactic dressings for bony prominences or under medical devices.**

# Protecting Bony Prominences





# Prophylactic Dressing - Evidence



- Prophylactic dressings may be used to prevent pressure injury from critical devices
- May reduce forces of shear, pressure and friction.
- There is limited research in the OR with perioperative patients
- Not a substitute for offloading, or positioning interventions



An anatomical illustration of a human spine in cross-section. A minimally invasive surgical approach is shown, with a tubular retractor system (TRS) being used to access the intervertebral disc space. The TRS consists of a vertical tube that is inserted through a small incision in the skin and muscle. The tube is positioned over the disc space, and a surgical approach is made through the tube. The illustration shows the vertebral bodies, intervertebral discs, and the spinal cord. The text "Avoid use of unapproved positioning devices" is overlaid on the image.

**Avoid use of unapproved  
positioning devices**



# Follow Manufacturer Instructions for Use (IFU)



Association of PeriOperative Registered Nurses. (2017) Guideline for Positioning the Patient. In AORN(Ed).  
*2017 AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice*. Philadelphia, Wolters Kluwer.

**Scott Triggers® PLLC**



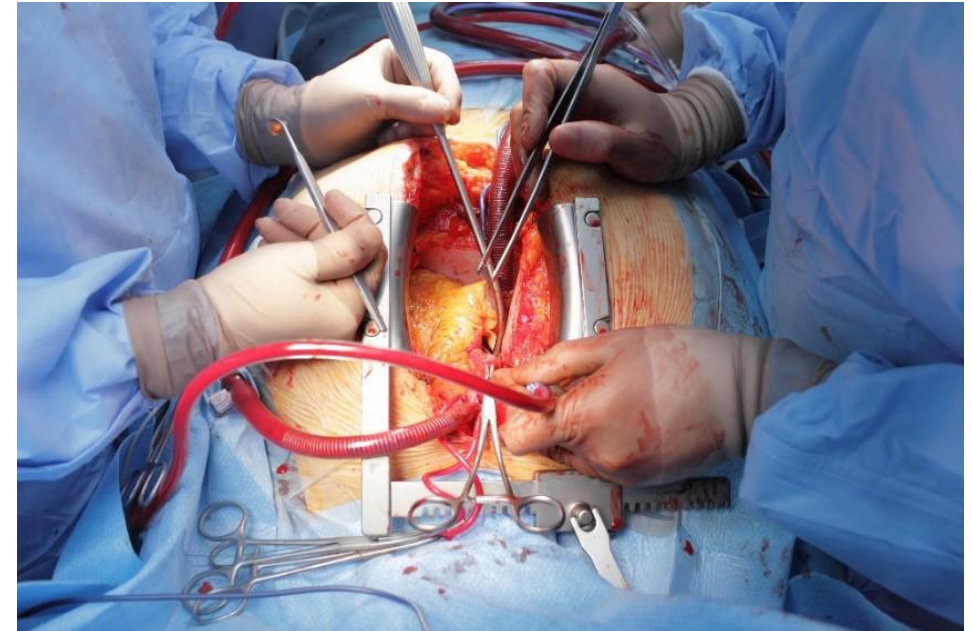


# Microclimate and Normothermia



# Microclimate

- Microclimate – the temperature of the body and the amount of moisture between the body and the surface.
- In the OR sources of moisture may include:
  - Irrigation
  - Blood
  - Prep solution
  - Sweat



# Microclimate

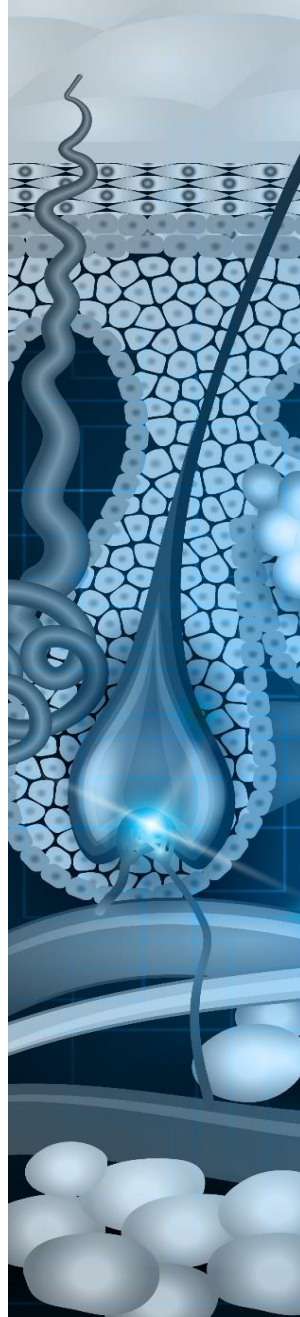
## Temperature

Sweat &  
Perspiration

Moisture &  
Maceration

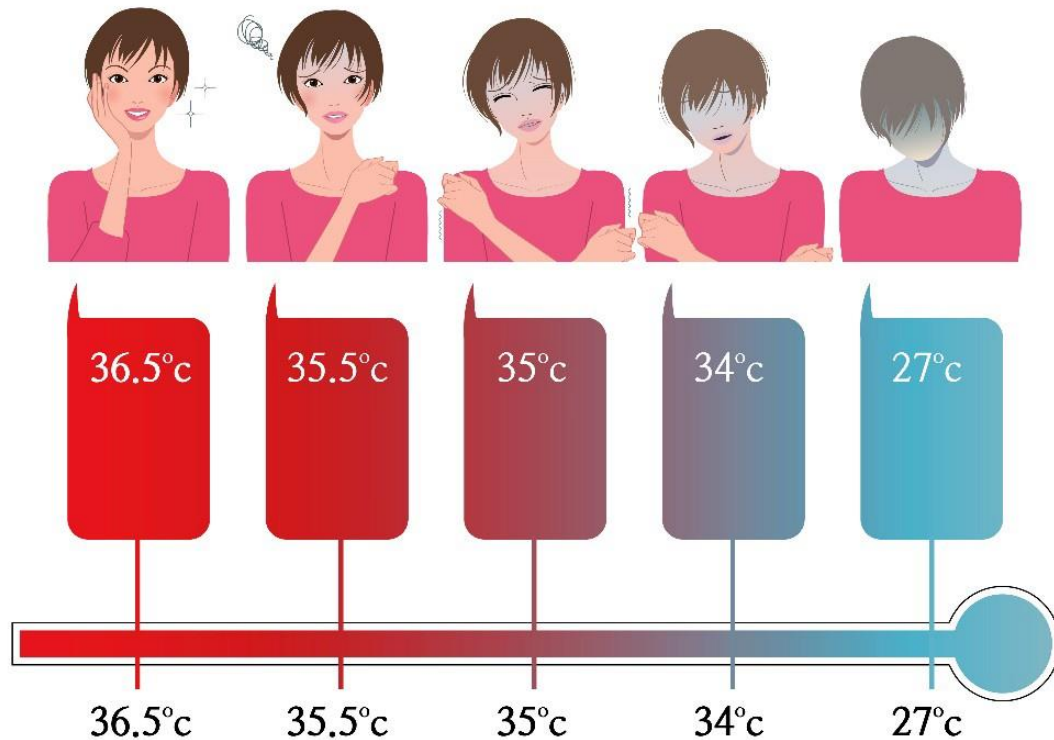
Weaken  
Epidermis

- Yoshimura indicated excessive perspiration and body temp greater than 100.6 F (38 C were risk factors in the park bench position.



# Maintain Normothermia

## Hypothermia



- Normothermia is the process of keeping the patients temperature at a normal level (96.8 F to 100.4 F [36.0 C to 38.0 C])
- Fred et al found that a 1 degree F (1.8 degree C) body temperature decrease was linked with a higher rate of PI.

Hypothermia associated with increases in SSI, PI, LOS, and Mortality rates



# Normothermia & Microclimate

- Warming blankets forced air
- Cooled/warmed IV solutions
- Mechanical ventilation
- Room Temperature
- Sheets or drapes that wick moisture away from the skin may help manage microclimate.

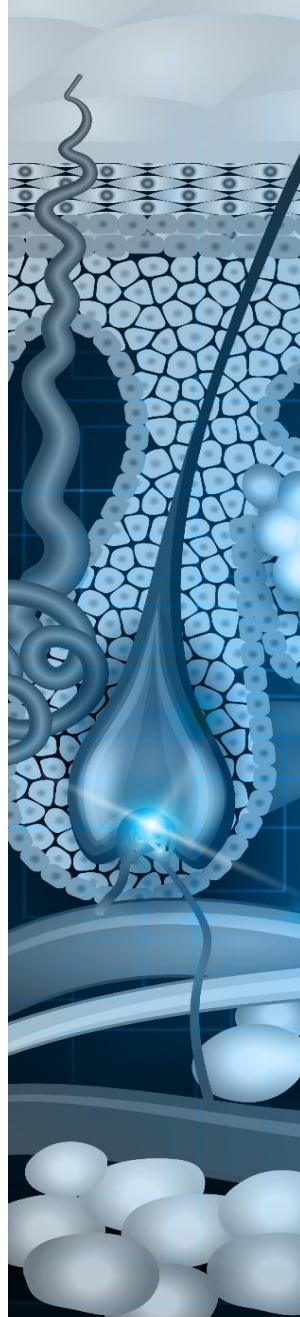
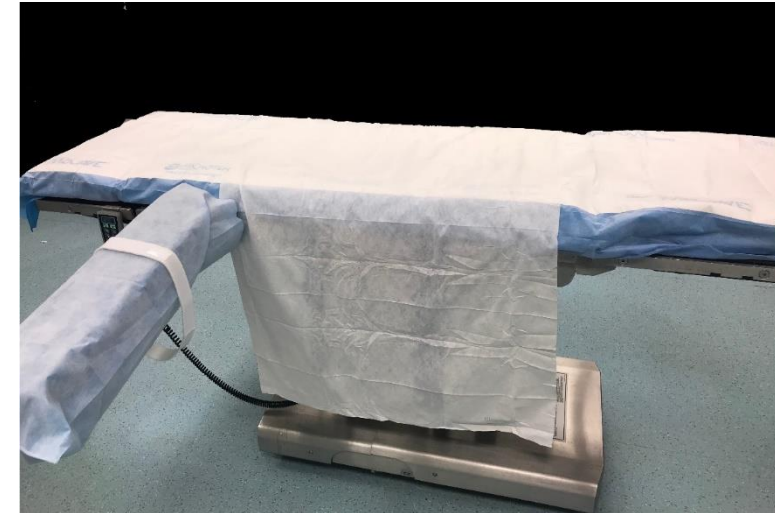


Photo Used with permission Connie Garrett CNOR



# Hand-over Communication

Structured standardized tools

# Communication Tools

- SBAR, IPASS, SWITCH (circulators)
- Illness Severity
- Patient Summary/Surgical Procedure
  - Risk Assessment
  - Surgical Position
  - Time on the table
  - Skin assessment of pressure points/devices
- Action List: Consult WOC Nurse
- Situational Awareness and Contingency Plan
  - **What are your concerns? Possible pressure injury**
- Synthesis by Receiver

What will  
you report?



Spector N, Starner A, Allen A, et al. I-PASS handoff curriculum: core resident workshop. *MedEdPORTAL*. 2013;9:9311.  
[https://doi.org/10.15766/mep\\_2374-8265.9311](https://doi.org/10.15766/mep_2374-8265.9311)

Minnich L, Bennett J, Mercer, J. (2014) Partnering for Perioperative Skin Assessment: A time to change a Practice Culture. *Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing*, 29(5):361-3



An anatomical illustration of the skin and its internal structures. The top layer shows the epidermis with a grid of small cells. Below it is the dermis, containing various glands (like sweat and sebaceous glands), hair follicles, and a network of nerves and blood vessels. The bottom layer shows the hypodermis with larger, more rounded cells. The entire illustration is in a light blue and white color scheme with a subtle grid pattern.

**Institute early movement,  
daily skin assessment  
and pressure  
management**

# Universal Pressure Precautions

- Manage pressure before and after surgery
- Position the patient differently preoperatively and postoperatively than the position during surgery.
- ERAS
- “UP Program”







**Reporting PIs that  
develop within 72 hours  
after the procedure.**



# Root Cause and System Analysis

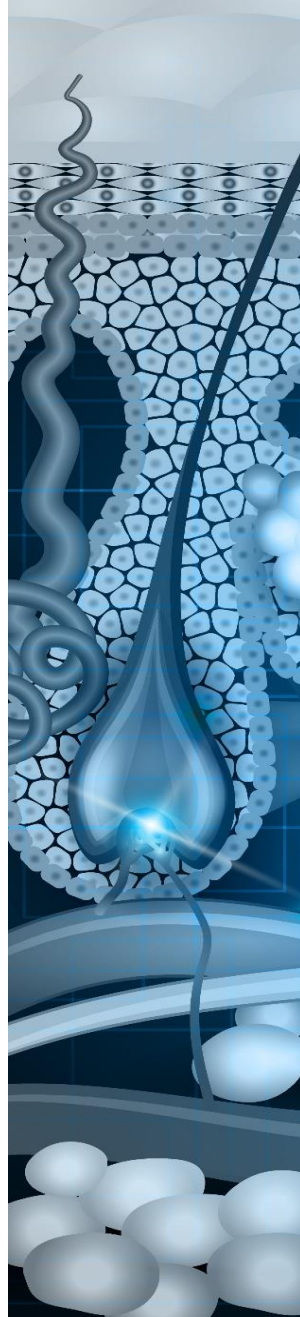


What  
happened?

Why did it  
happen?

How to  
prevent it  
from  
happening  
again?

*Focus on the "how" and the "why" ? not on the "who"*



## 5-Whys Exercise:

**Case Study: 47 y/o bilateral knee repair presented with Deep Tissue PI on PO day one. WHY?**

Patient was high-risk for pressure injury (PI). Scott Trigger Score 3: Morbid Obesity BMI 59, ASA 3, 3.38 hrs time on table




Risk assessment was not identified prior to surgery, pt. placed on standard OR surface



OR surfaces for morbidly obese not available



A PPIP Program with OR skin bundle has not been implemented



Staff unaware of Hospital Acquired PI rates and risks, evidence-based guidelines.

Action Item	Action Plan	Target Date Responsibility
Define Improvement opportunity(s) (PROBLEM)		
What disparities will be addressed? CLARIFY		
What is the Cause of the Problem? 5 Whys		
Type of Measure: Process, Outcome, Efficiency		
Aim Statement (SMART) Specific, measureable, Achievable/attainable, Realistic/relevant, Time-bound.		
Feasibility and impact of project, Is focus narrow enough.		
Who will be on the team (Interprofessional engagement).		
What will you measure? How will you get the data? Data collection plan, point of contact, resources. MEASURE		
What quality metrics and benchmarks will we use?		
PDSA Cycle What will you test? IMPROVE		
How will you know improvement has been made? ANALYZE		
What is sustainability plan? CONTROL		



See downloads in conference materials.



# Create a Strategy

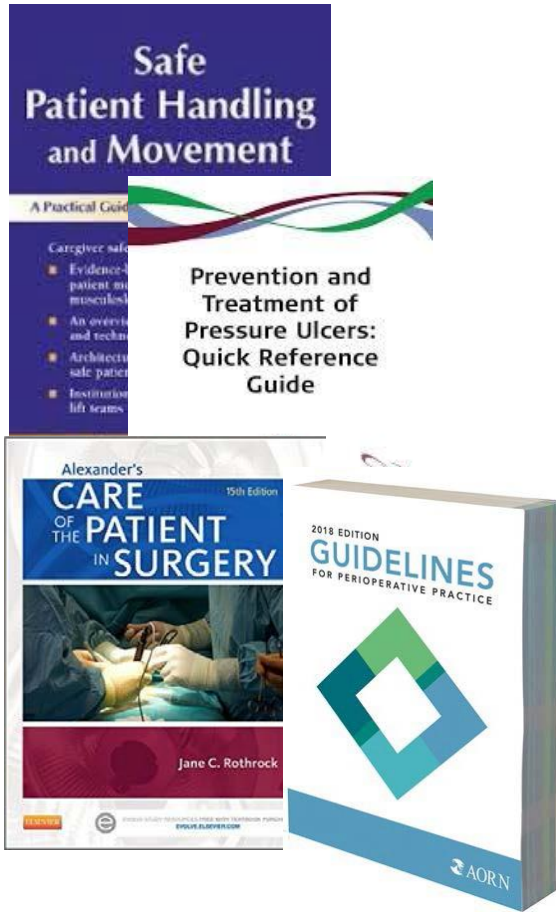
1. Quality Improvement
2. Assessment (Gap Analysis)
3. Staff Education & Awareness
4. Evidence-based best practices
5. Risk Assessment
6. Perioperative Nursing Care Plan
7. Universal Pressure Precautions
8. Positioning Competencies
9. Product Selection/standardization
10. Interprofessional collaboration



SCOTT PPIPP



# Other Ways to Gain & Spread Knowledge



Guidelines & Books



Journals



[Safe Patient Handling Toolkit](#)

[Prevention of Perioperative Pressure Injury Toolkit](#)

Toolkits & Webinars



**Progress & Challenges in Perioperative Pressure Ulcer (Injury) Prevention**

Presented by: Susan Scott, MSN, RN, WOC Nurse



**Wound  
Ostomy and  
Continence  
Nurses  
Society®**

<https://www.aorn.org/guidelines/clinical-resources/tool-kits/prevention-of-perioperative-pressure-ulcers-tool-kit>



**Susan M. Scott**  
**MSN, RN, WOC Nurse**

Twitter @scotttriggers

[www.scotttriggers.com](http://www.scotttriggers.com)

Email:

[scotttriggers@gmail.com](mailto:scotttriggers@gmail.com)

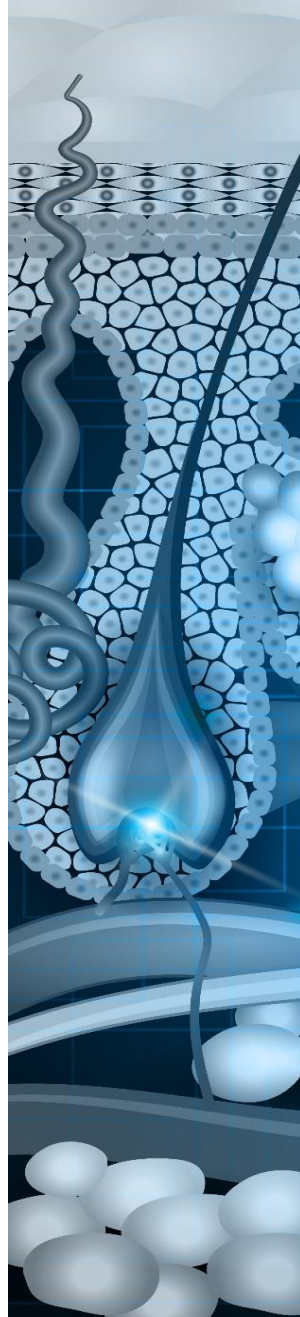
LinkedIn: Susan M. Scott





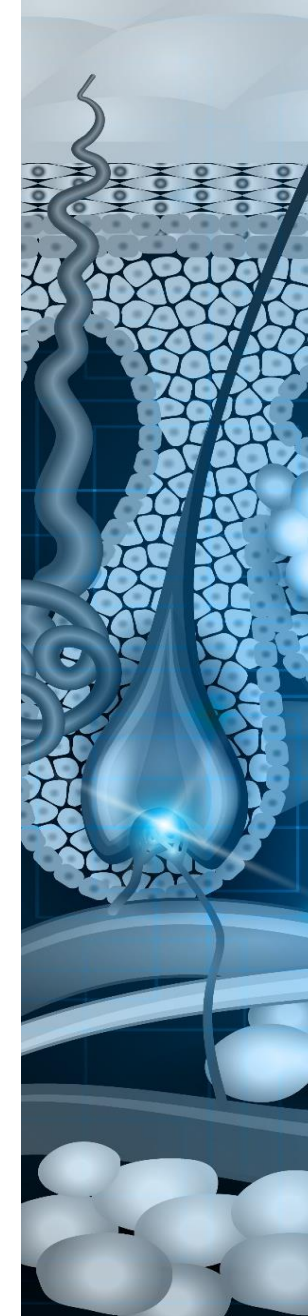
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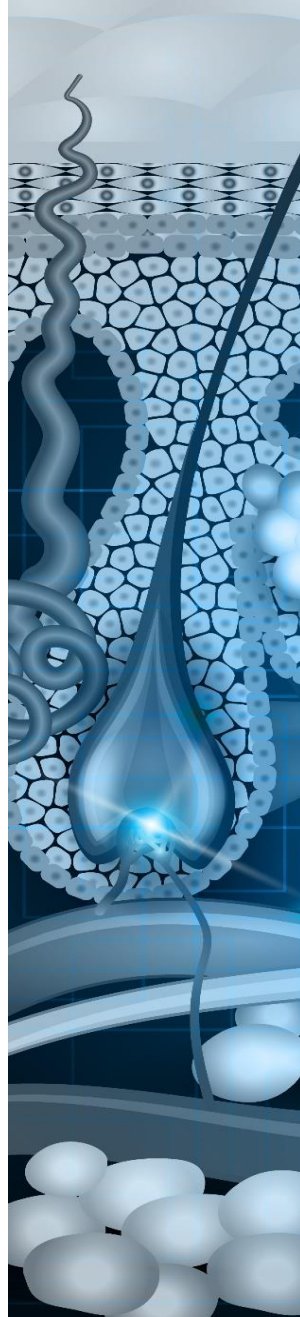
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