EVALUATION OF A EARLY STAGE PRESSURE ULCER (PU) ASSESSMENT DEVICE*

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September 12th - 14th 2018

Introduction

A unique device* designed to support existing PU prevention programmes by identifying increases in sub-epidermal moisture, an invisible precursor to pressure damage, is being instituted in care facilities around the world.

Any new technology should be easy and intuitive to use and easily built into existing clinical workflows.

This analysis reports on the experiences of healthcare practitioners involved in multiple, separate evaluations of the device*.

Methodology

- The new device* was introduced to healthcare facilities via pressure ulcer reduction programmes (PURP)
- PURP is a systematic method of assessing the impact of the device* in reducing PU incidence when the device* is incorporated into existing prevention protocols
- PURP data1 from 3 countries UK; Spain and Canada - from 11 Facilities, 905 patients are reported in this analysis
- Opinions from Healthcare Practitioners who have used the device* were sought via 1 of 3 methods:
  - Post PURP questionnaires
  - Online surveys
  - 1:1 Interviews

![Figure 1: PU Prevention Clinical Decision Matrix2](image)

Results

- Feedback from healthcare practitioners reported that the PURP:
  - Helps to foster a culture of greater vigilance, including from patients
  - Supported a reduction in time spent in documentation of skin assessments
  - Having objective data helped wound care nurses better communicate with ward nurses about the implementation of the patient care plan
- In one of largest PURPs to date2:
  - 75% of healthcare practitioners described the new technology* as easy to use
  - 88% of healthcare practitioners reported that the new technology* provided additional information to support clinical decision-making (figure 1)
- In one of the most recent PURP’s to date1:
  - 64% of patients scanned resulted in anatomically targeted interventional care to support PU prevention including:
    - Heel offloading
    - Increased mobilisation
    - Implementation of specialist PU prevention surface
    - Use of Prophylactic dressing or cream

Conclusions

- The device is easy to use and positively impacted clinical decision-making
- The use of new technology can be challenging in busy healthcare environments but the results of eleven PURPs demonstrate the positive impact that new technology can make in supporting healthcare decision-making, empowering and enabling healthcare practitioners

1. Data with FDA for review as part of BB’s De Novo request