



Policy Name PRESSURE ULCER PREVENTION PROGRAM			Policy Number: 0207
			Effective Date: February 26, 2013
Approved By: Policy Committee	Drafted by: Bereavement Coordinator and edited by Educator	Review date: October 2018	Date Revised: October 16, 2013
Classification: Pain and Symptom Management			Page No: Page 1 of 2

POLICY

Due to our client population and the nature of the care we provide, The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice acknowledges the majority of the Residents admitted, will be at high risk for the development of pressure ulcers. A pressure ulcer is, “A lesion caused by unrelieved pressure that results in damage to underlying tissue. Pressure ulcers usually occur over a bony prominence and are staged to classify the degree of tissue damage observed”. (Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario, 2008)

Pressure ulcers have a significant impact on a Resident’s quality of life, resulting in pain and increased risk of infection. Effective pressure ulcer strategies can substantially reduce the incidence of pressure ulcers and are an indication of higher quality care and services. (Accreditation Canada, 2013) Since effective strategies require an inter-disciplinary approach, Agapé Hospice will strive to provide a comprehensive ulcer prevention education program to all its employees.

For its use and to reflect the reality of hospice care, Agapé Hospice has adapted and modified (with the developer’s permission) the “Waterlow Pressure Ulcer Prevention / Treatment Policy”, © J. Waterlow 1985, Revised 2005. Agapé Hospice’s Pressure Ulcer Prevention Program was initiated to prevent Residents from developing pressure ulcers during their stay, as well as manage the pain and symptoms of those admitted with existing ulcers. In accordance with the tradition of hospice / palliative care, our focus will be on Resident’s comfort through pain and symptom management rather than cure.

Evaluation of Agapé Hospice’s Pressure Ulcer Prevention Program falls under the auspices of the Total Quality Management Committee.

PROCEDURES

The Waterlow Modified Risk Assessment form will be used at Agapé Hospice to assess and monitor Resident’s risk of developing pressure ulcers.

1. The Waterlow Modified Risk Assessment form will be used by the Registered Nurse (RN) at the time of admission, along with the skin assessment chart found in admission documents. Subsequent assessments will be completed weekly (Wednesdays) by the attending RN or with “Significant Change” in Resident’s status.



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2. Instructions for its use, along with definitions of terms are included on the reverse side of each tool form.
3. Upon completion of the tool, RNs are required to document in Resident's health record:
 - a. Risk Assessment Scores of "High" or "Very High"
 - b. Changes in Resident's Care Plan
 - c. Education provided to the Resident and / or family, caregiver
4. Completed risk assessment forms are filed in ascending order in the health record of the Resident under "Pressure Ulcers" section.
5. At rounds, the modified Waterlow Score will be reviewed by the Interdisciplinary Team and monitored weekly for every Resident.

ATTACHMENTS

[Waterlow Modified Pressure Ulcer Risk Assessment](#), adapted for use at Agapé Hospice, 2013.

CROSS REFERENCE

[Policy #0209](#) – "Prevention and Management of Pressure Areas and Ulcers".

Agapé Hospice Wound Care Resource Binder

REFERENCE

Waterlow Pressure Ulcer Prevention / Treatment Policy © J. Waterlow 1985, Revised 2005.

Alberta Palliative Care Resource (2001), 2nd ed., Pereira, Jose M.D. & Brueva, Eduardo M.D. © Alberta Cancer Board. pg. 72.

"Pressure Ulcer Awareness & Prevention Collaborative, Change Package" (2008), Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. Ontario Health Quality Council.