Pressure ulcer risk assessment and prevention: comparative effectiveness
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Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment from a member of INAHTA. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation

Authors' conclusions
Although risk-assessment instruments can identify patients at higher risk for pressure ulcers, more research is needed to understand how the use of risk-assessment instruments impacts pressure ulcer incidence compared with clinical judgment. More advanced static support surfaces are more effective than standard mattresses for preventing ulcers in higher risk populations. More research is needed to understand the effectiveness of other preventive interventions over usual care and the comparative effectiveness of preventive interventions.

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While pressure ulcers commonly occur and are associated with significant health burdens, they are potentially preventable. This report systematically reviews the evidence on (1) risk-assessment scales for identifying people at higher risk of pressure ulcers and (2) preventive interventions to decrease incidence or severity of pressure ulcers. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality also commissioned a separate report on effectiveness of interventions to treat pressure ulcers.

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