

POLICY NO: CLN/P1

PORTSMOUTH HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST

CORPORATE POLICY

adhere to the guidelines or to indicate the reasons why they are unable to do so. Cost effectiveness is an important criterion and a balance may have to be struck between what is considered ideal from a clinical point of view and what can be afforded. In such a case, expert advice should be sought.

- **Specialist Advice**
Each service/department/health centre or clinic should have a named link nurse whose name(s) should be attached to this policy. This nurse should have received appropriate training and should be afforded time to develop her role.

The Tissue Viability specialist can be consulted for advice either on the clinical guidelines or on the needs of individual patients.

- **Transfer of patients/clients between departments/wards**
Clear and unambiguous information regarding presentation site, grade and management of pressure sores and at risk status of the patient should be provided to the receiving department/ward.

3.3 Education and Training

As indicated above, educational needs in relation to pressure sores must be addressed by means of planned programmes.

- **Patients/Clients**
Whenever possible, patients/clients should be made aware of the risk of pressure sores, the way in which they can help themselves and the reasons for the plan of care. Their help in reporting discomfort or immobility should be encouraged.

- **Relatives and Carers**
Relatives and carers should be aware of the preventive measures which should be taken and of the use of special equipment, especially in the home. The need to report any problems with equipment should be emphasised.

If a patient develops a pressure sore, the reasons for this and the measures taken to treat it should be explained. This should be done whenever a sore develops, but is particularly important prior to a patient's discharge. The plan of care should also be discussed with the nurse who will be responsible for the patient's care to ensure continuity.

- **Staff**
Link nurses should be able to demonstrate the ability to practice at an advanced level. All qualified staff should have attended an updating event (such as a Tissue Viability Study Day) at least every three years.