

Pressure Injury

How HCP Decision-making Affects Patient Health Trajectories and HC Spending



Ms. H

Situation:

- Ms. H is an otherwise very healthy woman who presents at the emergency department with abdominal distress late in the evening.
- She is mobile and lucid but in considerable pain.
- After examination by the emergency department doctor she is given pain medication.

- The pain medication changes her ability to feel discomfort.
- **Key Decision Point:** As per best practice, she is administered a risk assessment for pressure injury in the ED. Her score indicates she is at moderate risk.
- A plan is implemented for regular repositioning through the night, which she spends in a partial sitting position in a bed in the emergency department awaiting admission to a ward.
- She is transferred the next day to a room, where she is kept in a sitting position and continues to take pain medication.
- Her plan of care includes regular repositioning until her surgery, on day 4, after which her pain subsides and she no longer needs pain meds.
- As a result of her new situation, another pressure injury risk assessment is carried out. Her new score indicates she is no longer at risk and repositioning by staff is no longer required.

- Over the course of the next 14 days H is treated for the surgical wound, which heals normally.

- Discharge from hospital

Wound care costs for pressure injury:

- Dressings: \$0;
- nursing time: \$0;
- Costs for preventing the pressure injury (for repositioning to prevent PI): \$XX



- She spends the night in a partial sitting position in a bed in the emergency department because of the abdominal issues, awaiting admission to a ward.
- She is transferred the next day to a room, where she is kept in a sitting position and continues to take pain medication.
- **Key Decision Point:** No risk assessment for pressure injury is done at any time.
- On day 3 a nurse helping with hygiene discovers a stage 3 pressure injury on H's coccyx.
- A plan is put in place to manage the wound through cleansing and regular dressing changes.
- H has abdominal surgery on day 4.

- Over the course of the next 14 days H is treated for both the surgical wound and pressure injury
- Surgical wound and pressure injury both heal normally despite the added burden to H's system.

- Discharge from hospital

Wound care costs for pressure injury:

- Dressings: \$XX
- Nursing time: \$XX



- H is treated for both the surgical wound and pressure injury.
- The surgical wound heals normally but the pressure injury does not because of infection.

2 WEEKS

- Discharge from hospital
- An additional 3 weeks of home care to continue management of the pressure injury
- The wound is finally closed by day 35 post-emergency department visit.

Wound care costs for pressure injury:

- Hospital:
- Dressings: \$XX
 - Nursing time: \$XX
 - Antibiotics: \$XX
- Home care:
- Dressings: \$XX
 - Nursing time: \$XX
 - Antibiotics: \$XX

