

Preventing device related pressure injury

What is a device related pressure injury?

An injury to the skin or mouth, nose etc. from constant pressure from devices or other equipment.

What devices can cause injury?

Pressure injuries may occur under or around:

- Plasters
- Splints
- Braces
- Stockings
- Tubes
- Masks
- Drains.



They can also be caused from non-medical equipment such as ill-fitted shoes.



What increases the risk?

You are at increased risk if you:

- Are older
- Are unwell
- Use multiple devices
- Use the device for a long time
- Have swelling
- Have poor blood flow
- Have poor diet and fluid intake
- Have limited feeling
- Are not able to respond to signs of pain.



What can I do to lower the risk?

Your health care team will show you how to:

- Check the skin under and around the device
- Reposition the device and how often to reposition the device
- Make sure the device is securely fixed to reduce movement and pressure
- Use protective dressings to reduce pressure on the skin under the device
- Check for any pain or altered feeling under or around the device.



What do I do if I have concerns?

Speak to a member of your health care team as soon as possible to report your concerns such as:

- Pain
- Discharge
- Redness or change in skin colour
- Blister
- Itching
- Swelling
- Tingling
- Numbness.

Remember to follow advice from your health care team and contact them if you are concerned.

Scan QR code for more information on pressure injury prevention

