

Management of an Ischemic and Shear Ulcer with a Modular Group I Support Surface

Introduction

Mr. A.M. is a 63-year old obese male patient who suffered from a CVA early in 1997. He is cared for in his home by his wife who is a small women and sometimes finds it difficult to handle him. Mr. A.M. has very limited mobility and the following risk factors: occasionally moist skin due to incontinence, slightly limited sensory perception, inadequate nutrition, diabetes mellitus, obesity, pressure, and shear. His Braden Scale risk assessment score is 13. According to the Medicare Part B Medical Policy Coverage and Payment Rules, he qualifies for a therapeutic Group I mattress overlay or mattress replacement.

Management of Care

The enterostomal therapy nurse was consulted when Mr. A.M. developed a stage II ischemic (pressure) ulcer located on his right medial buttock. Since Mr. A.M. was almost completely immobile, the E.T. nurse assessed his need for pressure and shear relief and ascertained his wife's ability to provide regular turning and positioning while also caring for his wound.



Figure 1. Stage II right medial buttocks ischemic ulcer, measures 7.5 cm in length and 4.5 cm in width.

The E.T. nurse assessed the wound to be a stage II ischemic (pressure) ulcer, possibly caused not only by pressure, but also by shear. The wound measured 7.5 cm in length and 4.5 cm in width (Figure. 1). The wound bed was beefy red without any devitalized material noted. Since there was scant wound exudate, Duoderm Thin® hydrocolloid dressing was chosen to protect and maintain a moist wound bed while providing a manageable dressing regimen that Mr. A.M.'s wife could handle.



Figure 2. Stage II ischemic ulcer healed to closure.

The E.T. nurse also considered many options for an appropriate pressure reducing support surface for Mr. A.M.'s bed. The PRODIGY™ Mattress Overlay was chosen for its unique ability to be customized to each of the patient's bony prominences because of its modular system. It is the only group I support surface that is zoned and adjustable. It also did not impede Mrs. A.M.'s ability to care for her husband. Since the PRODIGY mattress is non-powered, there was nothing further she had to attend to but her husband's needs.

Conclusion

Within two weeks time on the PRODIGY Mattress Overlay, Mr. A.M.'s stage II medial buttock ischemic (pressure) ulcer was healed to closure (Figure 2). The PRODIGY Mattress Overlay will remain on his bed since Mr. A.M. exhibits several risk factors for future breakdown.

Mr. and Mrs. A.M. were educated by the E.T. nurse on the importance of good skin care, turning and repositioning, frequent skin checks and the fact that the area that had healed will always be vulnerable to breakdown and need special care.

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