

INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ULCER GUIDELINES

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Guidelines have been around a long time in healthcare, but recently there has been an explosion of them across the world. This is, in part, because guidelines have become more sophisticated and partly because we are all becoming more litigious. The European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (EPUAP) and the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) in the USA both had guidelines that need updating. The two societies joined forces to produce international guidelines for the prevention and management of pressure ulcers. This work was being co-ordinated by a joint Guideline Development Group (GDG). This paper will briefly review the methodology used to develop the guidelines and reflect on some of the challenges along the way. The review of the literature and the statement and text development was undertaken by members of the two societies in small working groups. We very much wanted to ensure that the draft guidelines were reviewed by a wide audience and ultimately 742 individuals from 49 countries and 119 organisation representatives signed up as stakeholders. The guidelines were launched earlier this year in both USA and Europe. Presenting this paper at the EWMA Conference will provide a further opportunity to share the outcome of an exciting project.