

NATVNS National Association of Tissue Viability Nurses, Scotland

In March 2008, a National Integrated Tissue Viability Programme was established by the Chief Nursing officer for Scotland in conjunction with the National Association of Tissue Viability Nurses Scotland (NATVNS), National Education for Scotland (NES) and Quality Improvement Scotland (NHS QIS) to look at standardising the prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers. Although the programme has now come to an end migration work still continues independently within each health board and the NATVNS will continue to be pro-active working in partnership with NHS QIS and NHS Education for Scotland. The national toolkit can be obtained on the Health Improvement Scotland website www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org

Some key successes for the National Tissue Viability Programme are:

- National pressure ulcer grading tool (Scottish adapted EPUAP tool)
- Skin excoriation assessment tool
- Risk assessment and a wound assessment tool
- Website in joint partnership with NHS QIS and NHS Education for Scotland
- Patient information leaflet on pressure ulcer prevention
- Pressure ulcer prevention care bundle
- Safety cross for collecting incidence data for pressure ulcers
- Preliminary risk assessment tool (PPURA)

In addition to tool development, substantial awareness raising activity has been undertaken through the continued support of facilitators representing each NHS Board in Scotland and a number of care homes. Work will continue throughout this coming year as we strive to achieve a 50% reduction in hospital-acquired pressure ulcers.

In addition to the work achieved with NES and QIS, the NATVNS has also been working on the development of national guidelines on:

- Skin tears and traumatic wounds
- Wound cleansing

We are also in the process of developing our own website with a launch date projected for early 2012. This will enable us to communicate with other wound care associations and share best practise guidelines.

Our membership has now increased to 44 as we welcomed three new members this year. We continue to be a pro-active group and although we will continue to focus on the reduction of pressure ulcers, our main focus for 2012 will be looking at the development of an Algorithm for antimicrobial treatment within wound management.

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(President NATVNS)*