



Multi-Agency Protocol for Safeguarding Adults for Pressure Ulcers

Trafford Safeguarding Adults Board

7-Minute Briefing

This guidance is designed to help practitioners who support adults where they may be concerns related to a Pressure Ulcer. Practical resources are included to help staff determine whether a pressure ulcer might have been caused by neglect or poor care, and if it warrants a safeguarding enquiry. It provides clear guidance for when to raise safeguarding concerns and make referrals to local authorities. The protocol aligns with the latest multiagency standards and clinical guidelines for pressure ulcer prevention and management.

Pressure ulcers develop when the skin breaks down, often over bony areas. They can result from poor care, acts of omission, or neglect, but sometimes they are unavoidable despite best efforts. Skin damage has a number of causes, some relating to the individual person, such as poor medical condition and others relating to external factors such as poor care. It can also be due to poor multi-disciplinary team working for example where information is not recorded or shared in a timely way, or where there is a different understanding or grading of ulcers across agencies or professionals.

It is recognised that not all skin damage can be prevented and therefore the risk factors in each case should be reviewed on an individual basis before a safeguarding referral is considered.

Before deciding on a safeguarding referral, gather a full history, **including** contacting previous care providers if the person recently changed care settings.

Professionals should ensure that relevant and appropriate referrals are made for safe discharge and ongoing care and treatment, which may include, tissue viability referral, adult social care support on discharge and care plan and risk assessment review by care provider as a part of immediate protection planning. Where a Safeguarding adults enquiry or Section 42 enquiry is taking place, any involved agencies safeguarding adults' team or lead should be made aware and engage and support the process.

The full guidance can be found here: [Multi-Agency Protocol for Safeguarding Adults for Pressure Ulcers](#)

The TSAB Multi-Agency Protocol for Safeguarding Adults for Pressure Ulcers includes resources such as a body map, grading scale, assessment and decision guide to support professionals safeguard adults with pressure ulcers.

Risk Category	Level of Concern	Score	Evidence
1. Has there been a skin assessment or assessment of skin integrity in the last 12 months? (If not, score 0; if yes, score 1)	No (For example, no previous skin assessment or assessment of skin integrity in the last 12 months)	0	
2. Has there been a recent change, that is within days or hours, in their clinical condition that could have contributed to skin damage? (For example, infection, pyrexia, anaemia, loss of life care, critical illness, emergency hospital visit)	Change in condition contributing to skin damage	5	
3. Has there been a previous skin assessment or assessment of skin integrity in the last 12 months? (If not, score 0; if yes, score 1)	Yes (Current risk assessment and care plan carried out by a healthcare professional and documented appropriate to person's needs. If the healthcare professional, the carer responsible has been notified and appropriate preventative care implemented)	0	
4. Is there a concern that the pressure ulcer developed as a result of the individual's care, or is it a result of neglect or preventing access to care or services?	No or Incomplete Yes or Incomplete No or Not Applicable	10	State what parts of care plan that are in place

For more information, please visit our TSAB Website: [Welcome | Trafford Safeguarding Adults Board](#)