



Improving together

Improvements to the prevention and management of pressure ulcers

Improvements made by the Integrated and Community Care Service have led to a 40 per cent reduction in pressure ulcers experienced by patients receiving nursing care in the Swindon community.

A series of new measures including a risk assessment tool and equipment bundle are leading to safer, more proactive and consistent care for end-of-life patients.

Pressure ulcers were chosen as an area for improvement as they have a devastating impact on the patient yet are largely avoidable with a consistent approach to high quality care, clear measurement, and effective interventions.

Pressure ulcers are damage to the skin and tissue underneath and are more likely in less mobile patients. They are painful and can lead to serious complications, while also being costly to the NHS in terms of clinical time and resources.

Improving Together tools such as Go-and-See allowed the team to gain a clearer understanding of the causes of pressure ulcers and develop counter measures to address the biggest issues.

A new risk assessment tool enables clinicians to identify high risk patients and provide pressure relieving equipment, while a new equipment bundle is giving clinicians more choice of equipment enabling them to better meet the needs of each patient.

Involving community, hospital and Prospect Hospice teams is helping to ensure integrated, consistent and seamless care between services.

A 40 per cent reduction in pressure ulcers has been achieved in one year, alongside a reduction in the severity of pressure ulcers.

The team are committed to identifying more areas for improvement and sharing learning across the region.