

Articles of Interest

Literature Review

Reviewers

Patricia Coutts, RN
Heather Orsted,
MSc, RN, BN, ET

Pressure Ulcers in Long-Term Care

Authors: Rockwood K, Bethune G, Dastoor D, Reddy M, Cabico L, Rochon P

Publication: *Geriatrics Today. J Can Geriatr Soc* 2005; 8:50-54

Reviewer: Patricia Coutts, RN

There is an ongoing debate among health-care providers regarding the development or worsening of pressure ulcers when patients are transferred from long-term-care to acute-care facilities. This article discusses a retrospective cohort study involving all of the residents from a long-term-care setting that were transferred to an acute-care setting within the same institution over a period of one year.

The results of this study showed that patients transferred from long-term care to acute care were more likely to develop a pressure ulcer or have an existing pressure ulcer worsen. The authors noted that the patients most at risk were those admitted with a hip fracture, and, to a lesser extent, those admitted with pneumonia. The lack of mobility over an extended period of time was the most common factor in the development of a pressure ulcer in this high-risk group of individuals.

Documentation of the presence and severity of a pressure ulcer was found to be poor, particularly in the acute-care setting, but documentation of severity was also found to be lacking in the long-term-care setting.

The article suggests that this study is important in helping facilities to provide "improved quality of care and reduce hospital costs" by developing strategies that will increase awareness, improve documentation and develop prevention programs for patients at increased risk in both acute- and long-term-care settings.

Preventing Foot Ulcers in Patients with Diabetes

Authors: Singh N, Armstrong DG, Lipsky BA

Publication: *JAMA.* 2005;293(2):217-228

Reviewer: Heather Orsted, MSc, RN, BN, ET

This paper systematically reviews the evidence on the efficacy of methods advocated for preventing diabetic foot ulcers in the primary care setting. The authors look at the evidence related to screening and how assigning a patient to a risk category can determine the type and frequency of both their educational needs as well as clinical interventions.

Home Monitoring of Foot Skin Temperatures to Prevent Ulceration

Authors: Lavery LA, Higgins KR, Lanctot DR, Constantinides GP, Zamorano RG, Armstrong DG, Athanasiou KA, Agrawal CM

Publication: *Diabetes Care.* 2004;27(11):2642-2647

Reviewer: Heather Orsted, MSc, RN, BN, ET

This innovative study asks clinicians to consider the use of at-home patient self-monitoring of daily foot temperatures to prevent foot complications in individuals at high risk for diabetic foot ulceration. Results showed that the control group had a 20 per cent foot complication rate while the group that used the home self-monitoring had a two per cent foot complication rate.

Since this paper is published in *Diabetes Care*, it is available free and downloadable online at <http://care.diabetesjournals.org>.

Get the Picture! Developing a Wound Photography Competency for Home Care Nurses

Authors: Buckley KM, Koch Adelson L, Thomas Hess C

Publication: *J WOCN.* 2005;32(3): 171-177

Reviewer: Heather Orsted, MSc, RN, BN, ET

More and more, wound photography and digital imaging is becoming a part of our practice, not only for chart records, but also for consulting with specialists and telehealth resources. This very well designed and informative article provides the clinician with a systematic and competency based approach to wound photography in a clinical setting. ☺

continued on page 47

Literature Review *continued from page 46*

Updated Guidelines Available

Rosser WW, Pennie RA, Pilla NJ, and the Anti-infective Review Panel. Anti-infective guidelines for community-acquired infections. Toronto: MUMS Guideline Clearinghouse; 2005. (www.mumshealth.com)

The 10th anniversary edition of the Anti-infective guidelines for community-acquired infections–2005 is now available. This “orange book” is one in a series of guidelines developed by and for front-line clinicians. The Anti-infective Review Panel represents a mix of health professionals with expertise in several fields and who practise in a variety of clinical settings. In addition, the guidelines are peer-reviewed by hundreds of front-line health professionals in order to ensure a very practical and relevant document that is evidence-based and user-friendly.

To order a copy, visit www.mumshealth.com, phone 416-597-6867, fax 416-597-8574, e-mail guidelines@mumshealth.com or visit your closest university medical bookstore.