

Overview

This standard covers undertaking risk assessment in relation to pressure area care and the risk of skin breakdown. This assessment will take place across a variety of health and social care settings, throughout hospitals, including operating departments, hospices, nursing and residential homes, day centres, and individual's own homes. Risk assessment will include the use of different assessment tools selected for use to fit the individual and the environment. The assessment could be undertaken by a variety of staff within the varied care settings and is an ongoing process demanding constant review and evaluation.

Users of this standard will need to communicate effectively to meet individuals' needs and wishes and work in line with health and safety legislation, policy and practices.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1. identify and agree the roles and responsibilities of yourself and others in undertaking tissue viability risk assessment for individuals
- P2. provide support to the individual, ensuring that you respect their rights and wishes relating to their privacy, beliefs and dignity
- P3. identify individuals who may be at risk of impaired tissue viability and skin breakdown
- P4. identify any pre-disposing factors which might increase risk
- P5. identify any external factors which you should consider in your assessment
- P6. collect the relevant documentation, including agreed assessment tool for use before starting the assessment
- P7. establish consent and access information on undertaking tissue viability risk assessment for individuals
- P8. assess the individual's risk of tissue breakdown using the criteria laid down in the assessment tool you are using
- P9. inspect the general condition of the individual's skin, identifying risk factors, using safe handling techniques when assisting the individual to move during the assessment
- P10. inspect specific areas of skin for pressure or risk of pressure and identify risk
- P11. agree, in consultation with others, how often the risk assessment should be reviewed and record the frequency of assessment in the care plan and other relevant records
- P12. undertake the review using the criteria involved in the initial assessment if appropriate
- P13. identify when the current assessment tool, or frequency of review are no longer appropriate due to changes in the individual's condition or environment
- P14. complete all relevant documentation required for undertaking tissue viability risk assessment for individuals

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1. how to access and interpret all relevant work instructions, legislation, guidelines, policies, procedures and protocols needed to undertake tissue viability risk assessment for individuals
- K2. the scope and limitations of your own competence, responsibilities and accountability as it applies to your job role
- K3. the principles, practice and procedures associated with informed consent
- K4. the needs of individuals including issues relating to dignity, confidentiality, and privacy
- K5. the importance of applying standard infection control precautions to undertaking the assessment of skin breakdown and the potential consequences of poor practice
- K6. relevant research that has been undertaken in respect of risk assessment for pressure area care
- K7. how you might involve the individual
- K8. the risk assessment in relation to the holistic care of individuals
- K9. what to look for when you assess the skin
- K10. when initial assessment should take place and why
- K11. the frequency of review and re-assessment
- K12. the degree of support and guidance needed by the individual
- K13. the anatomy and physiology of the healthy skin
- K14. the changes that occur when damage caused by pressure develops
- K15. what is meant by shearing forces
- K16. the pre-disposing factors to pressure sore development
- K17. the sites where pressure damage may occur
- K18. the assessment tools available for use in the assessment of risk of pressure sore formation
- K19. the importance of escalating concerns
- K20. safe handling techniques
- K21. the importance of sharing your findings with others and the individual concerned
- K22. how to complete and safely store all relevant documentation in accordance with organisational requirements with regards to tissue viability risk assessments

Undertake tissue viability risk assessment for individuals

Developed by Skills for Health

Version Number 4

Date Approved 13 Feb 2026

Indicative Review Date 13 Feb 2031

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating Organisation Skills for Health

Original URN SFHCHS4

Relevant Occupations Health and Social Care, Health and Social Services Officers, Health Associate Professionals, Health Professionals, Health, Public Services and Care, Healthcare and Related Personal Services

Suite Clinical Health Skills

Keywords Tissue, viability, risk, assessment
