

Best practice statements and guidelines in relation to SUPPORT SURFACES



National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)

NICE

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Health and Care Excellence

Formed in 1999, NICE is an independent organisation that has a close working relationship with The Department of Health and Social Care and is responsible for providing evidence-based guidance on health and social care. They encourage and support a quality and safety-focused approach, in which commissioners and providers use their guidance and other NICE-accredited sources to improve outcomes. All NICE recommendations are based on the best available evidence of what works both, in terms of clinical and cost effectiveness.

Nice guidance on support surfaces:

‘Use a **high-specification foam** mattress for adults who are:

- admitted to secondary care
- assessed as being at **high risk** of developing a pressure ulcer in primary and community care settings’

‘Use **high-specification foam** mattresses for adults with a **pressure ulcer**’.

‘Use a high-specification cot or bed mattress or overlay for all neonates, infants, children and young people with a pressure ulcer’

‘Consider a high-specification foam or equivalent pressure redistributing cushion for adults who use a wheelchair or sit for prolonged periods as well as those, who have a pressure ulcer’

European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (EPUAP)



The European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel's goal is to provide solutions for persons suffering from, or at risk of, pressure ulcers. This is achieved through research, education of the public and by influencing pressure ulcer policy in all European countries towards an adequate patient centred and cost-effective pressure ulcer care approach.

EPUAP are seen to be at the forefront of pressure ulcer prevention and treatment through public policy, education and research. The information and resources they produce are referenced by healthcare professionals throughout Europe.

EPUAP guidance on support surfaces:

‘Use a high specification reactive foam mattress rather than a non-high specification reactive foam **mattress for all individuals assessed as being at risk of pressure ulcer development**’

‘Consider using a high specification reactive foam mattress or non-powered pressure redistribution **support surface for individuals with Category/Stage I and II pressure ulcers**’

‘**Select** a support surface that provides enhanced pressure redistribution, shear reduction, and microclimate control **for individuals** with Category/Stage III, IV, and unstageable pressure ulcers.’

References

NICE, Pressure Ulcers, Prevention and Management of Pressure Ulcers, Clinical Guideline 179, April 2014
EPUAP, NPUAP, PPIA, Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers: Quick Reference Guide, 2014

Invacare is a leading manufacturer and supplier of pressure ulcer prevention products. The industry guidance detailed in this resource as well as our experience of working with clinicians and patients, guides us in our approach to the development of highly specialised products and services for pressure ulcer prevention.

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