Tissue Viability

What Is It Anyway?

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Definition

There is no universally accepted standard definition of the role

Generally:
Tissue Viability nursing is about preventing insults to the skin and underlying tissues and facilitating healing in wounds where a complication has prevented the normal healing process.
It's not new

We dress them

God heals them

Pare © 1550
Elements of Tissue Viability

- Pressure ulcers
- Leg ulcers
- Other wounds
- Dressings
- Skin care

- Audit
- Equipment
- Education
- Policy
- Links
Dressings

- Wound assessment
- Advanced therapies
- Dress or advise?
- Type
- Function
- Formulary
- Evaluation
- Review
Skin Care

- Ongoing incontinence management project (publication in draft)
- Products
- Methods
- Danger signs
- Protection
- 80% reduction in moisture lesions
Audit

- Pressure ulcer incidence
- Pressure ulcer prevalence
- Moisture lesions
- Documentation
- Static mattresses
- Chairs
- Wound prevalence (pending)
Equipment

- Air mattresses
- Foam mattresses
- Beds
- Chairs
- Cushions
- Wound care devices
Education

- Nurses
- HCAs
- Junior doctors
- Patients and carers
- PAMs
- The bottom line, Oxford, June 08
- Diversity in practice, RCN, March 09
Policy

- Dressing formulary – county wide
- Pressure ulcer guidelines (in line with NICE)
- Wound care guidelines
- Compression bandaging
- ABPI protocol
- Larval therapy
- Post-op wounds policy
- Referral policy
- Mattress replacement policy
- Equipment guidelines
- Competencies to accompany each completed or in development
KGH forums

- NAB
- MMCC
- Link nurse group
- Wound care steering group
- ANPs
- RTTC (productive ward)
- Procurement group
- PoVA reporting structure
Links

- PCT TVNs
- DNs
- Infection control
- Dieticians
- PAMs
- Podiatrists
- Doctors (KGH & PCT)
- Pharmacy
- Medical devices

- E.Mids TVNs
- Local TVN group
- Wound care alliance UK
- Wounds-UK
- Universities
- Dressing companies
- Mattress companies
- Skin care companies
- EPUAP
Current Projects

• Incontinence management
• Regional formulary (via E.Mids TVNs)
• Parity in pressure ulcer incidence reporting
• Local improvements (via county group)
• Business case to develop service
• Bed replacement
• Improve mattress selection (changing decision-making)
• Risk assessment tool in development (pilot pending publication)