Pressure Ulcer Risk Identification & Assessment Improvement
By Hazel McConnell, Briery Park Care Home

Over 18 months Briery Park Residential Care Home took part in the SPSP Pressure Ulcer in Care Home Collaborative. We aimed to reduce pressure ulcers by 50% by December 2017.

How will we know a change is an improvement?

Outcome measure - Baseline data told us the numbers of pressure ulcers, both inherited and acquired.

Process measure – Quality of completion of the Waterlow tool. We maintained all measures throughout.

What Changes can we make that will result in an Improvement?

- Scoring system was unclear and confusing
- Revised the wording and put a clear scoring table

- Staff didn't understand the clinical language used
- Simplified language, gave examples and added ‘refer to Care Plan if unsure’

- Language highly clinicalised
- Examples given and language simplified

Our theory - if we improved quality around Waterlow scoring and communication we could meet our aim.

Our first ‘Test’ was around auditing 5 Waterlow Risk Assessments per week, to see how many were accurately completed.

Over a period of weeks we found consistently 5 out of 5 Risk Assessment were incorrectly completed.

Results
Management and staff led the project with commitment, passion and enthusiasm. All staff members were fully involved and contributed to changes in the Home.

Our next steps are around testing a further adaptation to the Waterlow Risk Assessment in terms of rationale of scoring being high under the ‘Mobility’ section in terms of Cognition.

Number of incorrect Waterlow Risk Assessments completed in Briery Park Residential Care Home

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