

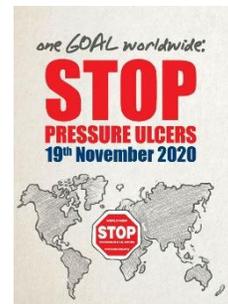


Stop Pressure Ulcer Day 2020, November 19th European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel

Pressure ulcers represent one of the biggest patient safety challenges facing healthcare systems. Pressure ulcers/injuries affect up to 4 million patients in Europe in hospitals and home care and relate to new-borns, people in wheelchairs, bedridden patients and the elderly and chronically ill (suffering from diabetes, immunosuppressive diseases), people in-home care settings, nursing homes and palliative care. The cost of treating pressure ulcers is enormous and early prevention has been considered as the most effective treatment. A recent report from the OECD suggests that pressure ulcers are a significant threat to patient safety, with prevention being substantially cheaper than treatment.

Economic impact: Revenue spent on pressure ulcers treatment is a concern, as most pressure ulcers can be avoided with appropriate risk assessment and use of interventions targeted at combating this risk. However, despite this premise, it is estimated that approximately 4% of the annual healthcare budget in Europe is being spent on pressure ulcers, with nursing time accounting for 41% of these costs. Pressure ulcers have also been shown to increase the length of hospital stay, readmission and mortality rates. Approximately 15% of total hospital activity and expenditure is a direct result of adverse events, such as pressure ulcers, venous thromboembolism and infections.

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- *4 million of people in Europe suffer from pressure ulcers*
 - *It can cost up to 70.000 EUR per year to treat a pressure ulcer*
 - *Need for longer hospital stay, additional medication, dressings, and rehabilitation*
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To raise awareness and share best practices of treating and preventing pressure ulcers, the EPUAP organises yearly the Stop Pressure Ulcer Day.

The **Stop Pressure Ulcer Day** started with the Declaration of Rio in 2011 and it always takes place on the 3rd Thursday of November. The next Stop Pressure Ulcer day will be held on **November 19th, 2020**.

The awareness-raising event involves healthcare professionals and family members of patients at risk of pressure ulcers. Its mission is to spread awareness of pressure ulcers among the public and policymakers, share good practice and help to exchange experiences among health professionals, at the local and international level.

About EPUAP

The European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (EPUAP) provides a platform for clinicians, researchers, educators, policy makers, industry, and the public to collaboratively work on improved health outcomes for those at risk or suffering from pressure ulcers. EPUAP provides EU wide education and campaigns with accessible resources for clinicians and the public and supports international and interdisciplinary research activities and partnerships. An important focus is the development of cross-continent international clinical guidelines to support practitioners in making informed decisions about interventions for prevention and treatment (visit www.epuap.org).

What are pressure ulcers?

Pressure ulcers are a very common phenomenon in today's world. Healthcare professionals are dealing with this wound on everyday basis and prevention is key to optimal health of patients. Pressure ulcers are injuries to the skin and underlying tissues of various extents, being caused by long pressure.

People who are confined to a wheelchair or stay in bed for longer periods of time often suffer from pressure ulcers. It can be a very painful journey for the patients and that is why it is crucial to inform the public and health care professionals about its existence and the negative impact it has on hospitals' budgets and patients' quality of life in case of lack of preventive care.

How can you make a difference?

- Join EPUAP on 19th of November 2020 and put the focus on the importance of pressure ulcer prevention for patient safety and quality of life
- Mention the Stop Pressure Ulcer Day on your website, news channel or in any other way that will help put this higher on the agenda
- Inform the public opinion about pressure ulcer and how to prevent it in-home care
- Organise a short interview with an EPUAP representative

Sources:

- Video: [EPUAP Time to move for pressure ulcer prevention](#)
- Video [Patient experience with pressure ulcers](#)
- [Clinical reference guideline: Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers e-book](#)
- [WEBINAR: Clinical Challenges of Caring for COVID-19 Patients](#)

- Articles on Patient Safety across Europe:
 - [The perspective of pressure ulcers](#)
 - [The time to invest in patient safety and pressure ulcer prevention is now!](#)
 - [Diabetic Control & Pressure Ulcers – fighting fatal complications and improving quality of life](#)
 - [EWMA & EPUAP added-value to OECD efforts](#)
 - [The role of pressure ulcers in the fight against antimicrobial resistance](#)
 - [Pressure ulcer monitoring: a process of evidence-based practice, data sharing and joint efforts](#)
 - [Disability in Europe: the invisible burden of pressure ulcers](#)
 - [Pressure ulcers and patient safety - Fact sheet](#)