

## STANDARDISING CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING PRESSURE ULCERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUCLAS

Maria do Céu Relvas, Diana Sousa, Dulce Cabete

*Hospital de S. Bernardo, Setúbal, Portugal, Escola Superior de Saúde, Setúbal, Portugal*

**Problem:** In order to standardise procedures with a view to ensuring efficacy of treatment, PU evaluation is the cornerstone of healing success as, without a precise PU evaluation and record keeping, it is not possible to select the material to be used for appropriate treatment or monitor its progress. Baranoski (2005, p. 103) reported “evaluating the wound parameters gives clinicians the necessary information to make decisions, thus influencing the result of care.”

**Methodology:** Being aware of the divergences in how nurses evaluate PUs, it was decided to carry out a diagnosis test on a nursing team. The test consisted of a randomised selection of 20 lesion images, which had to be rated in accordance with EPUAP classification. 22 department nurses were assessed, and a lack of knowledge in PU assessment was noted. This diagnosis led to the implementation of intervention strategies to standardise PU evaluation criteria and improve the efficacy of nursing practices in carrying out this evaluation. The “world café” training method was used, and then interactive training was given so as to share the discussed information.

**Results:** After intervention, it was found that the percentage of the team that failed to assess the tissue types and spaces or sinus tractus fell from 100% to 17% and 33% respectively. The team’s failure percentage for evaluating wound edges and surrounding skin fell from 83% to 33%, and for evaluating depth from 83% to 17%. Pain and signs of local infection had not been observed by 67% of the team; but this was then rectified with just 17% of the team still having difficulties in identifying these parameters. With regard to the remaining PU evaluation parameters, just 17% of the team still has difficulties in evaluating PU surface-area size.