



## Discovery assessments overview

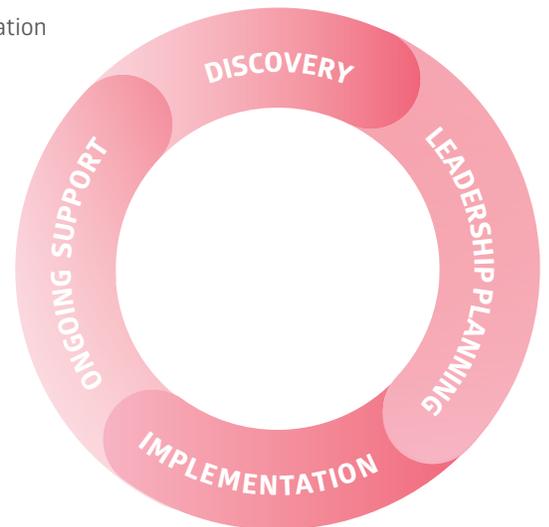
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Medline provides comprehensive clinical solutions designed to promote staff education and support best practices, to improve health outcomes.

Medline partners with healthcare facilities to identify gaps in care, provide sound recommendations, and deliver results. Discovery assessments are a critical step in executing the mission.

The discovery assessments are an evaluation tool provided by Medline to healthcare staff that include surveys related to clinical knowledge and practices among staff. Discovery assessments initially help identify areas to educate staff in best practices. **The discovery assessments ultimately deliver actionable practice recommendations to standardize best practices and positively impact care.**

Medline currently uses discovery assessments for the **Skin Health Solutions** to identify variations in care within skin health management and pressure injury prevention protocols, and educate clinicians in best practices for promoting skin health.



# 48

Skin Health Solutions discovery assessments completed in 2019 at healthcare facilities\*

\*Data on file

# 899

Skin Health Solutions clinical staff survey respondents in 2019\*

\*Data on file

# Skin Health Solutions discovery assessment

Skin Health Solutions discovery assessments evaluated current clinical knowledge related to patient skin care and pressure injury management among healthcare RNs. The assessments aim to improve standardization in patient skin care and promote best practices in skin care and pressure injury management.

Pressure injuries are an important aspect of both clinical care and the healthcare system at large. A 2013 U.S. Medicare study reported the incidence of hospital-acquired pressure injuries to be **4.5% in hospitalized patients, with an estimated 11 billion dollars for the cost of pressure injury care.**<sup>1</sup>

All clinicians should have the knowledge, skills, and products to reduce the likelihood of pressure injuries and properly manage pressure injuries according to best practice guidelines. Pressure injuries may be able to be prevented with body cleansing and moisturizing, moisture management, the use of support surfaces and offloading devices.<sup>2</sup> The Skin Health Solutions discovery assessments identified five insights into skin health and pressure injury prevention protocols.

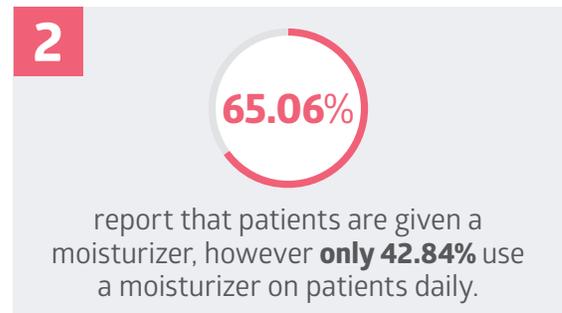
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## Five insights from 2019 Skin Health Solutions discovery assessment survey responses



Previous National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel (NPIAP) guidelines recommended turning patients every two hours to treat or prevent pressure injuries. The most recent NPIAP Clinical Practice Guidelines (updated in November 2019), however, state that the frequency of turning/repositioning patients should be **determined individually by a patient's activity level and ability to independently reposition.**<sup>3</sup>

Clinicians should take into consideration a patient's overall medical condition, skin and tissue tolerance, pain tolerance, and overall treatment objectives.<sup>3</sup>



Dry skin is a significant and independent risk factor for pressure injury. Skin should be kept clean of excessive moisture, and appropriately moisturized.<sup>3</sup>

Use moisturizers regularly for dry skin. Apply barrier creams for patients with incontinence who may develop pressure injuries, which complicate and extend hospital stays.<sup>3</sup>

3



81.02%

of staff report applying sacral foam dressings for at-risk patients, however **56.37% do not have a protocol for the use of sacral form dressing** as part of a pressure injury prevention program.

Sacral foam dressings are part of a pressure injury prevention protocol to decrease excess moisture which could lead to skin breakdown.<sup>3</sup>The most severe pressure injuries occur at the sacrum 44.8% of the time.<sup>3</sup>

The use of foam dressings is recommended by the NPIAP Clinical Practice Guidelines for prophylactic use to reduce the likelihood of pressure injuries, and strongly recommended for the treatment of stage II and more severe pressure injuries with moderate/heavy exudate.<sup>3</sup> Thus, a protocol should be implemented by healthcare facilities to promote best practices for regular use of sacral foam dressings on higher risk patients.

4



40.38%

report using heel protector devices (bunny boots, heel pads) for offloading heels.

The use of heel offloading devices is the most efficient method of releasing pressure and reduce the risk of heel pressure injuries in bed bound patients. The NPIAP recommends elevating the heels with a heel suspension device for patients at risk of heel pressure injuries, and patients with existing State I or II heel pressure injuries.<sup>3</sup>

Heel offloading can decrease the length of hospital stays and promote patient ambulation by preventing heel pressure injuries.<sup>3</sup>

5



65.84%

would like **more training** in pressure injury staging.

**Around 60,000 people die yearly** from complications associated with pressure injuries.<sup>4</sup> Interprofessional education of healthcare teams regarding pressure injury staging and management is necessary to reduce the occurrences of pressure injuries.<sup>4,5</sup>

**Only 36.1%** of staff were trained in pressure injury staging by their employer. These responses suggest that additional education and training for nursing staff would benefit the management and staging of pressure injuries.

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## Moving forward

The Skin Health Solutions discovery assessment provides opportunities for collaboration with facilities to create staff education in pressure injury staging and updated clinical guidelines, and promote ongoing training for Medline skin health products. In a previous partnership implementing a wound care education program for RNs and CNAs, **93% of nurses were very satisfied or satisfied with Medline's education program.**<sup>6</sup>

These assessments also reveal practices which staff should continue to engage in—for example, 97.47% of staff report offloading heels, and the majority of staff used moisture management products such as wipes and disposable drypads, as recommended by the NPIAP.

The findings from the Skin Health Solutions discovery assessments indicate that further support, training, and clinical education would provide healthcare staff with the tools to adhere to best practices for skin health and pressure injury prevention protocols.

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