

Graham, Yitka, Fox, Ann, Richardson, Angela, Couzens, Amy and Hayes, Catherine (2018) Ascertaining pressure ulcer prevention practices in residential care homes. In: Tissue Viability Society Conference, 25-26 April 2018, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. (Unpublished)

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PROACT

Pressure Ulcer Improvement Research

**Ascertaining pressure ulcer prevention
practices in residential care homes**

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Background

- There is a lack of information in residential care home settings in Sunderland on:
 - Pressure ulcer identification practices
 - Staff training
 - Tools used in practice
- Stakeholders across the City of Sunderland came together to address this issue to improve care through the PROACT project

Aim of study

- To engage with Managers of care homes to current practices, perceived confidence levels, tools used and knowledge gaps to establish a baseline for the PROACT project

Methods

- The rationale for PROACT was presented and discussed with care home managers prior to data collection to:
 - raise awareness / ensure buy-in for the project
 - Identify any issues/objections and address at outset
- The link to the anonymous, on-line survey was emailed to all Managers of residential care homes (n=48) in June 2017
 - Reminders were given via emails and face to face reminders

Methods

- Data collected between June – December 2017
- 47 residential care home Managers were approached

Results

- The survey elicited an 81% response rate (n=38)
- 37% (n=14) had worked as a Manager for >12 yrs
- 68% (n=32) stated their staff perceived prevention of pressure ulcers as an important aspect of care

Results

- 50% (n=19) stated their staff were confident in identifying signs and symptoms of pressure ulcers in residents
- Nearly half (n=15) reported time as the biggest constraint to staff engagement with training
- Half (n=19) of the homes used the Waterlow tool

Results

- 73%(n=27) stated that group education sessions and staff meetings were used to raise awareness of the need to identify signs and symptoms of pressure ulcers
- 75% (n=28) reported between 1-5 new admissions with pressure ulcer symptomology in the last 12 months

Discussion

- Findings show gaps in:
 - staff knowledge
 - training practice and provision
 - Variance in identification tools across the residential care homes in the City

Recommendations

- Need for standardised pressure ulcer tools to be implemented in residential care homes
- Address mechanisms of addressing resource and pragmatic issues with staff engagement with training

Thank you