

Monitoring the impact on users, of new postural items or adjustments to postural equipment.

Making sure it works for you:

Checking that new equipment is delivering the required benefits is essential, especially in the early stages of use.

- Initial impressions can mask shortcomings which prolonged use might reveal.
- Adjustments may be required to accommodate the users sitting habits and preferences which may be difficult to accurately determine at the time of initial delivery.
- Posture can change significantly with a change to a new position.

Monitoring:

When any new postural support equipment is issued, it is essential that its effect is monitored and checked daily to ensure there are no adverse effects. In particular, any numbness, pain, loss of sensation or reddening of the skin in any area in contact with the system should be brought to the attention of the carer, therapist or supervising medical staff to ensure prompt attention. Failure to do so may result in injury which could have been prevented by diligent monitoring and attention.

Further guidance:

Practical guidance on the prevention and treatment of pressure sores is available from the Clinical Practice Guideline on Pressure Ulcers in Adults: Prediction and Prevention, sponsored by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research. Visit ElderCare Skill Builders at:

www.ec-online.net/Knowledge/SB/SBpreventssores.html

Other links:

RCN guidelines: Pressure ulcer risk assessment and prevention:

http://www.rcn.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/78501/001252.pdf

Guidelines for seating in pressure ulcer prevention and management from Tissue Viability Society:

<http://www.nursingtimes.net/nursing-practice-clinical-research/specialists/wound-care/guidelines-for-seating-in-pressure-ulcer-prevention-and-management/5000207.article>

EUROPEAN PRESSURE ULCER ADVISORY PANEL: www.epuap.org

The National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP): www.npuap.org

There are new international guidelines due > www.pressureulcerguidelines.org