Teaching and Learning to Care:
Training for Caregivers in Long Term Care

TLC for LTC

Module Two

When Pressure Persists:
Prevention of Pressure Ulcers for Those at Risk

by

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Module Two: When Pressure Persists: Prevention of Pressure Ulcers for Those at Risk

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Introduction

Why this Module?

Pressure ulcers are a serious and costly condition. The cost of treatment is about $2000-$40,000 per pressure ulcer depending on the stage of development. Additional costs of hospitalization, survey penalties, potential litigation, pain and suffering, and marred public image are inestimable! Prevention of pressure ulcers is a clinical imperative. Nurses and CNAs provide the first line of defense in pressure ulcer prevention. This module is intended to assist you, the staff development educator and instructor, in assuring the knowledge and skill of direct care staff to meet these responsibilities.

What is the content?

Key content for you to teach in this module includes:

1. What pressure ulcers are and what happens to tissues when ulcers develop.
2. The causes of skin injury, including pressure, friction/shear, moisture, and suspected deep tissue injury (DTI).
3. Specific risk factors for pressure ulcers.
4. The specific contributions of various team members in prevention of pressure ulcers.
5. Specific preventive measures such as how to care for and inspect the skin, reduce pressure in bed and wheelchair, and maintain nutrition.
6. Staging of pressure wounds including unstageable wounds and suspected DTI.
7. Issues related to defining unavoidable pressure ulcers.