

NHS Southwark CCG Pressure Ulcers

Introduction

Southwark CCG were asked to present a response to the following points raised following the previous years Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding report to the Adult Health, Adult Social Care, Communities and Citizenship Scrutiny Sub-committee:

- 1) New protocols being developed on community acquired Pressure Sore cases to ensure they are resolved and information is shared between Trusts, the CCG and Adult safeguarding
- 2) An analysis of why Pressure Sores are increasing, including data on where these are acquired.

Information sharing to support Resolving Pressure Ulcers

The three main health providers in Southwark, Kings, SLaM and GST have come together to form a joint working group, the group is reviewing the current 'Safeguarding Adults and Skin Damage Protocol' which is in use. Members of the group include Safeguarding leads and Tissue Viability Team staff, the aim of the group is to further develop the protocol and to identify the process of how information and communication takes place between Trusts relating to the patient care pathway and how this informs the initiation of a safeguarding alert across providers and boroughs. Southwark CCG will be involved in contributing to the protocol to ensure that pressure ulcers that are a Serious Incident are reported and managed through the appropriate route as per guidance from NHS England and that commissioners are provided with evidence of the patient care pathway in practice.

NHS Southwark CCG review Trust wide Pressure Ulcer data of grades 2, 3 and 4 at the Integrated Governance and Performance meeting on a regular basis. Trends of Pressure Ulcer data is also analysed at the Monthly Clinical Quality Review Group which takes place jointly with Kings.

All incidences of Grade 3 and 4 Pressure ulcers reported by Kings, Guys & St Thomas including community services and SLaM are tracked and monitored to ensure the patient's care pathway is continuously delivered as appropriate to the patient's health needs.

The increase of Pressure Ulcers and where they are acquired

Kings has experienced an increased rate of acuity of frail and elderly patients which has contributed to an increase of activity in the Trauma and Stroke centres. Kings Virtual Ward provider 'Medihome' who provides hospital at home nursing care is presently running at full capacity therefore this has increase the number of incidence.

From 1st April Kings are reporting all Pressure Ulcers onto STEIS the national Serious Incident database managed by NHS England. Recent guidance from NHS England asks that all cases of grade 3 and above Pressure Ulcers are reported regardless of whether these were acquired in hospital or were noted on admission where the patient may have experienced a fall at home or may have previously resided in a care home. There is a robust system of monitoring Pressure Ulcers which ensures that patients under a previous provider of care upon where a Pressure Ulcer may have been acquired, is contacted to ensure an appropriate investigation and root cause analysis takes place. The National Patient Safety Thermometer CQUIN which requires a measurement of four categories of conditions one of which includes the recording of Pressure Ulcers has alerted an increase in reporting of the number of Pressure Ulcers, and those which qualify as a Serious Incident.

Where pressure Ulcers are acquired

Kings Hospital – All grade 3 and 4 Pressure Ulcers which have been acquired at the hospital are reported on STEIS and undergo a thorough root cause investigation followed by review and scrutiny at the Serious Incident Committee which commissioners attend. Training is provided to all staff as part of induction and consists of the identification, prevention and management of Pressure Ulcers. Kings Health Partners provide regular Pressure Ulcer Prevention management study days to all staff as well as regular ward based training. Pocket guides that help staff identify and categorise Pressure Ulcers are provided to all clinical staff along with an E-Learning support package.

Guys & St Thomas – all grades 3 and 4 Pressure Ulcers which have been acquired in the hospital are reported onto STEIS and undergo a root cause investigation. The action plan recommendations are reviewed at the monthly provider meetings.

South London and Maudsley – the Trust report all grade 3 and 4 Pressure ulcers as a serious incident and commence a root cause analysis investigation. This information is shared with commissioners who review and scrutinise the investigation and action plan recommendations at a monthly incident committee meeting. The Council safeguarding teams have been involved at recent meetings. There has been a reduction in reported Pressure Ulcers over the past 4 months at SLaM; this is due to an increase in early identification whereby each patient undergoes a body map upon admission and weekly thereafter. The Trust has placed focus upon providing comprehensive training to all staff to support and encourage the early identification and treatment of Pressure Ulcers.

Patient's home – A patient may be admitted into hospital with a pressure ulcer, in such an instance the hospital will immediately involve the TVN who will follow the Safeguarding protocol to assess and decide whether a safeguarding alert needs to be raised. The TVN team will assess the patient and make a referral to the community TVN team, they will share details and information such the type of pressure relieving intervention or equipment required and recommended. The patient will then be managed by the appropriate community team, or in the event of a safeguarding incident will be managed under the safeguarding team at the Local Authority.

Other previous Health care providers – In some cases a patient may be admitted to the hospital with a pressure ulcer which was acquired at a healthcare funded nursing home. Southwark CCG will contact the lead of the healthcare provider to ensure that this incident is reported as a serious incident a root cause analysis investigation takes place. Safeguarding teams at the council are alerted to all pressure ulcer serious incidents reported at health funded nursing homes.