



**TITLE: Use of the Braden Scale for Assessing Pressure Ulcer Risk in Acute Care: Clinical Evidence and Guidelines**

**DATE:** 30 January 2015

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What is the clinical evidence regarding the frequency of administration of the Braden Scale for predicting pressure ulcer risk for patients in acute care?
2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the frequency of administration of the Braden Scale for predicting pressure ulcer risk for patients in acute care?

**KEY FINDINGS**

Two evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the frequency of administration of the Braden Scale for predicting pressure ulcer risk for patients in acute care.

**METHODS**

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including CINAHL, PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2015, Issue 1), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2010 and January 28, 2015. Internet links were provided, where available.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

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**Table 1: Selection Criteria**

<b>Population</b>	Adult patients admitted to acute care
<b>Intervention</b>	Q1: Braden Scale on a routine basis (daily, weekly, etc.) Q2: Braden Scale (any frequency)
<b>Comparator</b>	Q1: Braden Scale at admission only Q2: None specified
<b>Outcomes</b>	Q1: Clinical effectiveness (e.g., impact on pressure sores) Q2: Guidelines for use (e.g., regarding frequency of admission of the scale)
<b>Study Designs</b>	Health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines

**RESULTS**

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

Two evidence-based guidelines regarding the frequency of administration of the Braden Scale for predicting pressure ulcer risk for patients in acute care were identified. No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, non-randomized studies, or randomized controlled trials were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

**Health Technology Assessments**

No literature identified.

**Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses**

No literature identified.

**Randomized Controlled Trials**

No literature identified.

**Non-Randomized Studies**

No literature identified.

**Guidelines and Recommendations**

1. Ayello EA, Sibbald RG. Preventing pressure ulcers and skin tears [Internet]. In: Boltz M, Capezuti E, Fulmer T, Zwicker D, editor(s). Evidence-based geriatric nursing protocols for best practice. 4th ed. New York (NY): Springer Publishing Company; 2012 [cited 2015 Jan 30]. p. 298-323. Available from: [http://consultgerirn.org/topics/pressure\\_ulcers\\_and\\_skin\\_tears/want\\_to\\_know\\_more](http://consultgerirn.org/topics/pressure_ulcers_and_skin_tears/want_to_know_more)  
See: *Risk Assessment Documentation*.
2. Association for the Advancement of Wound Care (AAWC). Association for the Advancement of Wound Care guideline of pressure ulcer guidelines [Internet]. Malvern (PA): Association for the Advancement of Wound Care (AAWC); 2010 [cited 2015 Jan 30].

Available from: <http://aawconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/AAWCPU-Qwik-Ref-Final-23Sep11.pdf>

See: *Patient Pressure Ulcer (PU) Risk Assessment for all Settings.*

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**APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**Non-Randomized Studies – Validity Studies**

3. Jin Y, Piao J, Lee SM. Evaluating the Validity of the Braden scale Using Longitudinal Electronic Medical Records. *Res Nurs Health*. 2014 Dec 30.  
[PubMed: PM25556557](#)
4. Serpa LF, Santos VL, Campanili TC, Queiroz M. Predictive validity of the Braden scale for pressure ulcer risk in critical care patients. *Rev Lat Am Enfermagem*. 2011 Jan;19(1):50-7.  
[PubMed: PM21412629](#)

**Clinical Practice Guidelines**

5. Perry D, Borchert K, Burke S, Chick K, Johnson K, Kraft W, Patel B, Thompson S. Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement. Pressure ulcer prevention and treatment protocol [Internet]. January 2012 [cited 2015 Jan 30]. Available from: [https://www.icsi.org/\\_asset/6t7kxy/PressureUlcer.pdf](https://www.icsi.org/_asset/6t7kxy/PressureUlcer.pdf)  
*See: "Patients at high risk of breakdown...", page 26.*  
*Process Aims and Measures, page 43.*
6. Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. Risk assessment and prevention of pressure ulcers (Revised) [Internet]. Toronto (ON): Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario; 2011 [cited 2015 Jan 30]. Available from: [http://rnao.ca/sites/rnao-ca/files/Risk\\_Assessment\\_and\\_Prevention\\_of\\_Pressure\\_Ulcers.pdf](http://rnao.ca/sites/rnao-ca/files/Risk_Assessment_and_Prevention_of_Pressure_Ulcers.pdf)  
*See: Frequency of Risk Assessment, page 23.*