

The Case of the Resident Who Needs To Be Repositioned

Improving Skin Care and MDRO Prevention in Long-Term Care



The Case

A 76-year-old morbidly obese female resident is scheduled to be turned and repositioned. The resident is at risk for pressure injuries due to limited mobility and diabetes.



The Challenge

The certified nursing assistant (CNA) doesn't have anyone to help with turning and repositioning residents. The resident is difficult to assist with repositioning, usually requiring assistance from two staff members for safe repositioning.

The Error

The CNA proceeds with repositioning without assistance, using the resident's bedsheets. This results in substantial friction and shearing during repositioning. A stage 1 pressure ulcer on the resident's heel worsens, and an additional stage 1 pressure ulcer develops on the buttocks from the friction and shearing.

Knowledge Check Questions

1. How could the CNA have better protected the resident's skin from pressure injury?

- A. Use a facility-approved device for assisting with turning and repositioning to prevent shearing and tearing of skin.
- B. Used pillows or other devices to relieve the pressure from the stage 1 pressure injury.
- C. Request assistance with turning and repositioning the resident.
- D. All of the above.

2. What should the facility do to prevent the error from happening again?

- A. Provide more education to staff on safe turning and repositioning.
- B. Acquire devices approved for assisting with turning and repositioning.
- C. Ensure staffing allows for two-person assists for turning and repositioning.
- D. All of the above.

Rationale for Each Answer

Rationale for question 1

Residents with risk for pressure injury require careful care of skin at risk for breakdown. Shearing and tearing is more likely when attempting to turn and reposition residents with an assist of one person, especially when the resident is immobile. Shearing and friction increase the risk of developing pressure injuries. Early-stage pressure injuries must be addressed by relieving pressure from the area.

Rationale for question 2

Residents often rely entirely on staff for assistance with turning and repositioning. Residents with conditions such as paralysis may be unable to provide any assistance to staff with turning and repositioning. For these residents, it's important to have two people assist with the turning and repositioning of these residents. For this to be possible, staffing must be adequate enough to allow for two-person assists. Staff also must be educated about the importance of two-person assists and have devices available to aid with turning and repositioning.

Answers to the Knowledge Check: 1-D; 2-D