

What is the MI SKIN Trigger Tool? :

The MI SKIN trigger tool is an initiative to promote staff awareness within the care homes to raise staff awareness around identifying changes in an individual which may increase their risk of developing pressure damage on a daily basis.

Initially developed as a trigger tool, it has now evolved to include the handover process and raise the level of awareness for all staff, relatives and residents in the home.

The provision of badges, posters and cue cards has raised the profile of the MI SKIN Matters campaign and encouraged questions to be raised from anyone entering and working in the home.

Communication during handover now includes the MI SKIN trigger tool. This has provided our nurses with prompts that they can work through in ensuring clinical information and small changes to a persons wellbeing are highlighted and therefore staff awareness raised. This may include any changes to their mobility, wellness, continence and nutrition. Preventative management can then be put in place.

Additional resources provided as part of the MI SKIN Matters campaign :

A week long email campaign to raise awareness and provoke interest was followed by Barchesters Care Specialists holding regional workshops in July to raise awareness and increase knowledge on the MI SKIN Matters campaign with a back to basics approach. At these workshops all homes wrote an action plan on how they were going to launch the MI SKIN Matters Campaign within their Homes. Supplementary documentation was provided to raise awareness such as the NPSA Safety Cross to be used in all clinical areas and Barchester produced a mattress selection algorithm to encourage staff to make the correct choices in surface provision.

A tissue viability workbook was produced and additional e-learning added to the Barchester Intranet to support an increase in knowledge in this area.

Conclusion

There is clear evidence supporting the successful integration and use of the MI SKIN Matters resources into the homes. Barchester Healthcare provides nursing support for a diverse range of the population including those at high risk of pressure damage. Healthy skin is important to everyone including the individuals who choose to live with us and this campaign has raised the profile and importance of a back to basics approach and the importance of noting those small changes in a persons wellbeing on a daily basis.

Clinical governance is now evidencing an improvement in accurate reporting Although Barchester already had strategies in place based on best practice the addition of the MI SKIN Matters campaign has raised the profile and awareness of this important issue within the Homes