MATTRESS SELECTION ALGORITHM

Barchester recommend Triflex mattresses to use for the majority of residents. Why are you considering changing to a Dynamic air system?

Pressure damage has developed?

Yes

NO

Triflex is recommended for heel damage as it is the only mattress that removes all pressure.

Is the site of the pressure damage on the heel?

Yes

No

Mattress Recommendations in Line AS PER NICE Guidelines 2003. Decisions about which pressure-relieving device to use should be based on an overall assessment of the individual and should not be based solely on scores from risk assessment tools.

Resident Waterlow score is deemed Very High Risk?

Yes

NO

Resident Waterlow is only one part of the assessment of risk and you need to look at the individual (for example a resident could have a Waterlow of 28 however be fully mobile and able to relieve their own pressure). The decision to transfer to a dynamic system cannot be based on Waterlow alone.

Resident choice or recommendation from Tissue Viability.

Yes

NO

Some residents experience ‘a moving sensation’ from the air mattresses - caution needs to be taken with these residents as it may increase the nausea and loss of appetite.

Resident was previously on a dynamic system in another setting?

Yes

NO

This does not mean the resident needs to be on an air mattress now. Reassess the need for a dynamic system.

Are the residents BMI <20 or med High Risk of malnutrition?

Yes

NO

The waterlow is only one part of the assessment of risk and you need to look at the individual (for example a resident could have a Waterlow of 28 however be fully mobile and able to relieve their own pressure). The decision to transfer to a dynamic system cannot be based on Waterlow alone.

Have you instigated 2 -4 hourly repositioning and is this evidenced on the repositioning chart?

Yes

NO

Implement guidelines from MUST assessment. Consider referral to GP for mineral/vitamin review. Discuss high protein diet with resident and chef to aid nutrition.

Have you educated your resident on the importance of relieving pressure?

Yes

NO

Review the other surfaces your resident is on, ensure all surfaces have pressure relieving equipment and monitor time your resident is sat in their chair during the day.

Have you ensured that the resident has a pressure relieving cushion in their chair/ wheelchair?

Yes

NO

Discuss health promotion with your resident and implement self help/programme to relieve pressure.

Is the residents BMI <20 or med High Risk of malnutrition?

Yes

NO

Ensure that all staff are made aware through the handover process and actions that need to be taken to prevent damage.

Are all your staff aware of the risks of your resident developing a pressure sore?

Yes

NO

Ensure this is implemented and strictly adhered to before considering the dynamic system.

Some residents experience ‘a moving sensation’ from the air mattresses - caution needs to be taken with these residents as it may increase the nausea and loss of appetite.

Does your resident suffer from nausea or motion sickness?

Yes

NO

This does not mean the resident needs to be on an air mattress now. Reassess the need for a dynamic system.

Resident Waterlow score is deemed Very High Risk?

Yes

NO

The waterlow is only one part of the assessment of risk and you need to look at the individual (for example a resident could have a Waterlow of 28 however be fully mobile and able to relieve their own pressure). The decision to transfer to a dynamic system cannot be based on Waterlow alone.

Are you considering changing to a Dynamic air system?

Yes

NO

Be aware that some resident complain that the beds are noisy and may not sleep as well on the dynamic system. Other residents have expressed that it feels hard and can restrict self movement around the bed.

Comfort of resident?

Yes

NO

Ensure that all staff are made aware through the handover process and actions that need to be taken to prevent damage.

Some residents experience ‘a moving sensation’ from the air mattresses - caution needs to be taken with these residents as it may increase the nausea and loss of appetite.

Does your resident suffer from nausea or motion sickness?

Yes

NO

This does not mean the resident needs to be on an air mattress now. Reassess the need for a dynamic system.

Resident Waterlow score is deemed Very High Risk?

Yes

NO

The waterlow is only one part of the assessment of risk and you need to look at the individual (for example a resident could have a Waterlow of 28 however be fully mobile and able to relieve their own pressure). The decision to transfer to a dynamic system cannot be based on Waterlow alone.

MATTRESS USE

A) HIGH SPEC FOAM MATTRESS

Any Waterlow Score - Skin intact or individual with Grade 1 /2 pressure damage that has the ability to reposition self or comply with effective repositioning regime.

B) DYNAMIC SYSTEMS

Any Waterlow Score - Grade 2 Not healing or deteriorating (Caution Heel site - Triflex recommended if other sites intact).

In bed for more than 16 hours a day with skin damage and compliance concerns.

Any individual with Grade 3 or 4 Skin damage.

Long term prevention where evidence is available that High Spec Mattresses have not been sufficient.