

A Quick Guide to the NPUAP Position Statement on Pressure Injury Staging – 2017 Clarifications

The National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) has published a position statement clarifying its 2016 pressure injury terminology and staging changes. The statements below are intended to provide additional clarification on the staging changes.

- 1 The diagnosis of a “pressure injury” does not mean that the health care provider(s) “caused” the injury.
.....
- 2 Some pressure injuries are unavoidable despite provision of evidence-based care by the health care team.
.....
- 3 The numerical staging system does NOT imply linear progression of pressure injuries from Stage 1 through Stage 4, nor does it imply healing from Stage 4 through Stage 1.
.....
- 4 The NPUAP Staging System classifies pressure injuries based on the type of tissue loss that can be visualized or directly palpated.
.....
- 5 The pressure injury may be more extensive than initially apparent. The wound base and surrounding tissue should be assessed for variations in sensation, temperature, firmness, color and any expression of drainage from surrounding tissues when palpated.
.....
- 6 Deep Tissue Pressure Injury (DTPI) may evolve into a full thickness wound despite optimal care.
.....
- 7 Any pressure injury should be treated in accordance with current evidence-based practices and monitored closely for changes that require re-evaluation of treatment strategies.

The Position Statement is available on the NPUAP website, [NPUAP.org](http://www.npuap.org). For more information on pressure injury terminology and staging, including photographs, download Joerns Healthcare’s free *Pressure Injury Staging Sheet* [here](#) or visit Joerns.com and click on the Clinical Tools page under the Resources tab.

Reference: NPUAP Position Statement on Staging – 2017 Clarifications. National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (2017). Available at <http://www.npuap.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/NPUAP-Position-Statement-on-Staging-Jan-2017.pdf>. Accessed April 19, 2017.