

## Introduction

Support surfaces should be chosen on an individual basis depending on a person's particular needs for pressure redistribution and other therapeutic functions. In all cases, the manufacturer's recommendations for the use and maintenance should be followed (EPUAP, 2014).

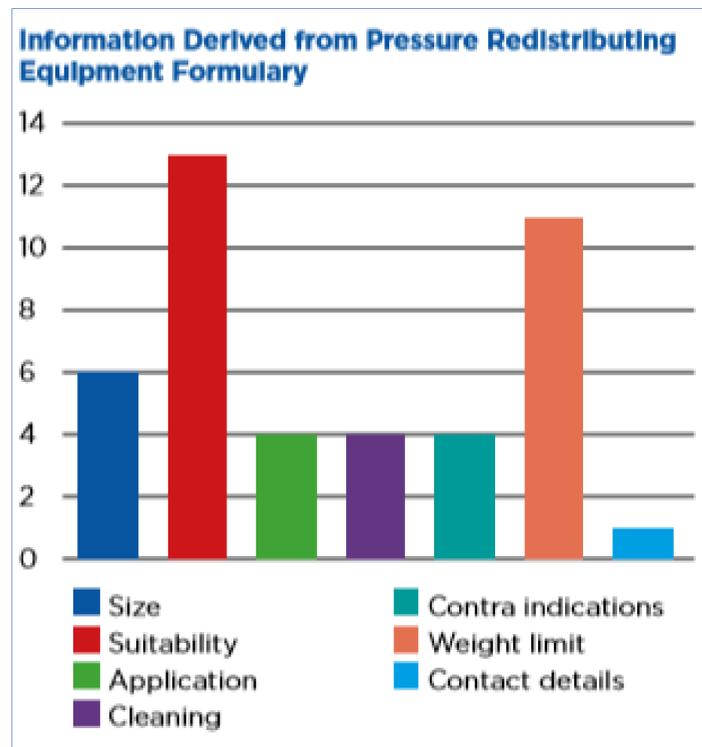
Pressure redistributing devices are widely accepted methods of trying to prevent the development of pressure areas for people assessed as being at risk (NICE, 2014). However, appropriate selection and use of pressure-redistributing mattresses to achieve positive clinical and financial outcomes is a challenge for healthcare organisations and staff alike.

Training for healthcare professionals who have contact with anyone who has been assessed as being at high risk of developing a pressure ulcer should include information on pressure redistributing devices (NICE, 2014). The prescription of pressure redistributing devices is often guided by equipment section algorithms and support resources, with training sessions offering further information, such as weight limits, cleaning and trouble-shooting.

Achieving dissemination of information within a Community Trust on appropriate selection and use is challenging and can be an arduous task. To support the availability of relevant guidance to clinical staff and aid the dissemination WHCT, in conjunction with Annie Allsopp TVN (honorary), WHCT & Clinical Specialist, Invacare Ltd, developed a formulary, to provide essential prescriber information in one resource tool. The equipment available through ICES and community hospitals is the same pressure redistributing equipment.

## Method

Information and guidance on pressure redistributing equipment available from both the Integrated Community Equipment Service (ICES) for community patients and the community hospitals for in-patient use was included. Detail for each mattress and cushion included name, order code, size options, patient suitability, contraindications, minimum and maximum weight limits, cleaning instructions, company contact details and price. The contents formulated to emulate the Wound Care Formulary for prescriber familiarity. Pricing for each item was included for prescriber awareness of cost of equipment, to highlight the importance of using resources wisely. (Fig 1)



The Pressure Redistributing Equipment Formulary was launched at the Annual Pressure Ulcer Conference in Worcester and a preliminary audit was undertaken with Tissue Viability Link Nurses following implementation. In order to review use and application of the resource, Link Nurses were asked to complete a questionnaire which included the following:

- Were they aware of the resource?
- Have they used it?
- How they have used it?
- If they found it useful
- Where it is located ?
- If they would find it useful as a document on their tablet
- Any additional information they would like included
- If they would recommend it
- If they had any additional comments

**Fig 1.** Example of equipment details included within the Pressure Redistributing Equipment Formulary

Product	Sofform Premier Active 2 Mattress Hybrid/Combination Mattress		
	Size	Product Code	NHS Price
	Mattress 197 x 88	SPASRT5-P(197x88)	
	197x 85.5	SPASRT5-P(197x85.5)	
	197 x 88	SPASRT7-P(197x88) Crib 7 – High Fire Risk	
	197x85.5	SPASRT7-P(197x85.5) Crib 7 – High Fire Risk	
Pump	1549002		
Use	Suitable for patients with pressure damage up to and including grade 3. Also for patients unable to tolerate dynamic therapy.		
Avoid	n/a		
Application	For standard and profiling bed frames		
Weight limit	39 stone/247kgs, no minimum weight limit		
Cleaning	Wipe down the cover with a 0.1% Chlorine Solution (1,000 ppm), rinse with clean water using a single use nonabrasive cloth. <u>Dry thoroughly</u> before re-use		
Service	No service required		
Webpage	www.thinkpressurecare.co.uk		
Contact e-mail	bpope@invacare.com		
Contact Mobile	07977980709		
Company	Invacare Ltd		



## Conclusion

A Pressure Redistributing Equipment Formulary can promote the delivery of evidence based practice by providing a framework within which it is safe to practice. The formulary supports clinical practice, promotes continuity of care, cost effectiveness, encourages safe, effective and appropriate use of pressure redistributing equipment and promotes rational prescribing.

Within Worcester Health and Care NHS Trust, there is a need to further explore the use of having the resource available on a tablet and a review of prescribers currently having access to the document to ensure effective dissemination.

Additional information will be included within revised versions of the document.

*The authors acknowledge this is a small cohort of users, a further survey is planned to confirm the appropriate interpretation of results and identify areas or individuals who may benefit from additional information, resource or guidance.*

**References** National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel and Pan Pacific Pressure Injury Alliance (NPUAP, EPUAP, PPIA) (2014) Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers: Quick Reference Guide. Emily Haesler (ed). Cambridge Media: Osborne Park, Western Australia National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2014) Pressure Ulcers: Prevention and Management [CG179]. Available at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg179> (accessed 26.01.17)