

Policy Statement

TruComfort Homecare recognises the skin as a vital organ essential to protecting overall health and well being. Maintaining skin integrity is critical in supporting the comfort, dignity and safety of our service users. We are committed to implementing evidence-based practices that promote healthy skin prevent pressure ulcers and minimise the risk of tissue damage.

Our approach to tissue viability is proactive, focusing on early identification, risk assessment and intervention to ensure skin breakdown is avoided wherever possible. Every member of staff play an important role in supporting this preventative model through consistent monitoring and timely reporting.

Aims and Objectives

- Promote skin health and integrity for all service users.
- Prevent pressure damage through risk assessments & appropriate care plans.
- Ensure prompt reporting and treatment of any skin changes.
- Work in compliance with all legal & regulatory standards related to tissue viability.

Legal and Professional Framework

TruComfort Homecare follows the following legislation & professional guideline:

- **Safe guarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006**
- **The Care Standards Act 2000**
- **The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974**
- **The Human Rights Act 1998**
- **National Institution for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidelines**
- **Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) standards**

Preventative Measures

1. Risk assessments must be carried out during initial care planning, focusing on:
 - **Nutrition**
 - **Mobility**
 - **Continence**
2. Staff must monitor these three areas on every visit and report changes immediately.
3. Risk assessment will be review annually or sooner if any changes in condition occur.
4. Staff must follow care plans exactly and apply any interventions directed by healthcare professionals (e.g., District Nurses).

5. Service users should be supported and encouraged to reposition themselves regularly if able.
6. Pressure areas should be checked at each visit. If a pressure ulcer or red area is observed, it must be reported immediately.

Reporting Procedures

- Any sign of skin redness, breakdown, or ulceration must be reported at once to:
 - **District Nursing Team**
 - **TruComfort Office or On-Call Team**
- A detailed record must be made in the service user's communication log, including:
 - Date and time of discovery
 - Description of the affected area
 - Any follow-up actions taken
 - Healthcare professional involvement

Hospital or Care Home Discharges

If a service user is discharged with pre-existing pressure damage:

- Notify the office and District Nursing Team immediately.
- Complete a **Pressure Area Monitoring Form** and ensure a care plan is adjusted accordingly.

Equipment and Maintenance

- Staff must ensure that pressure-relieving equipment (e.g., cushions, mattresses) is functioning correctly and up-to-date with maintenance checks.

Training and Competency

- All new staff must read this policy during induction.
- Regular training is provided in line with **National Occupational Standards**.
- Refresher sessions will be conducted **every three years**, or more frequently if required.
- Ongoing assessment of staff competence will take place through supervision and hands-on monitoring.