

17th
November
2016



epuap

EUROPEAN
PRESSURE
ULCER
ADVISORY
PANEL

one **GOAL** worldwide:
STOP pressure ulcers!

How can you get involved?

- Host educational activities on prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers
- Organise awareness raising events to share information about pressure ulcers
- Reach out to your local community to inform them about pressure ulcers
- Make policy makers aware about pressure ulcers



Download support material for free at: www.epuap.org

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Pressure Ulcers around the world

Pressure ulcers are a frequently occurring health problem throughout the world. They are painful, costly, and an often preventable complication for which many individuals are at risk.

Prevalence and incidence rates are generally higher in unique populations who are at elevated risk, such as those receiving palliative care, those with spinal cord injuries, neonates and infants, and individuals in critical care. Pressure ulcers represent a major burden of sickness and reduced quality of life for patient consumers and their care givers.

Pressure ulcers increase hospital costs significantly:

- In the **United States**, pressure ulcer care is estimated to approach \$11 billion (USD) annually, with a cost of **between \$500 (USD) and \$70,000 (USD)** per individual pressure ulcer.
- European cost models highlight that the cost of illness associated with pressure ulcers consumes up to 1.4% of health care expenditure in the **Netherlands** or between **\$362 million and \$2.8 billion annually**.
- In the **United Kingdom** (UK) pressure ulcers cost up to 4% of the annual health care budget (or £750 million annually) with expenses estimated at **£30,000 per individual pressure ulcer**. When community health care costs are added to hospital costs, pressure ulcers consume up to **£2.1 billion** of the National Health Service (NHS) budget.
- In **Australia**, associated opportunity cost related to increased hospital length of stays arising from development of pressure ulcer is an estimated mean **\$285 million (AUD)**.

Pressure ulcer reported prevalence and incidence

Setting or Population	Prevalence Rates	Incidence & Facility-Acquired Rates
Acute care	0% ⁴¹ to 46% ⁴²	0% ⁴³ to 12% ⁴³
Critical care	13.1% ²³ to 45.5%	24 3.3% ²⁵ to 53.4% ²⁹
Aged care	4.1% ⁴⁴ to 32.2% ⁴⁵	1.9% ¹⁹ to 59% ⁴⁶
Pediatric care	0.47% ³³ to 72.5% ³⁴ 0.25%	37 to 27% ³⁸
Operating room setting	—	5% ²⁸ to 53.4% ²⁹

References:

EPUAP-NPUAP-PPPIA International Pressure Ulcer Guidelines
The 2014 International Stop Pressure Ulcer Day Editorial, Prof. Dimitri Beekman