

Prevention Is Key to Treating Pressure Ulcers (Bedsores)

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[Pressure ulcers](#), or bedsore, are common in patients in hospitals and nursing homes, particularly those who are confined to bed. However, they are preventable. In fact, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, bedsore are categorized as injuries that *should never occur*.

The best way to prevent bedsore is to alleviate constant pressure on any one part of the body. Areas such as the tailbone, hips, elbows, and heels are particularly vulnerable to pressure ulcers.

For patients in hospitals or nursing homes who are not able to move around on their own, medical staff must reposition patients, being careful to avoid folding and twisting skin layers. Steps can also be taken to spread out body weight. Pressure-relieving devices or cushions can be used to help prevent pressure and friction.

Keeping the skin clean and moisturized are also important. Skin must be kept clean and free of body fluids or feces. In addition, skin lotions can be used to prevent drying and cracking, which makes the skin more susceptible to pressure sores.

Hospital and nursing staff must also carefully evaluate the patient's risk for developing pressure ulcers. For instance, patients who smoke or have underlying health conditions like diabetes can be at greater risk for bedsore. Because they can be difficult to treat, it is also imperative that any symptoms of pressure ulcers be addressed immediately.

The failure to prevent bedsore could be grounds for a malpractice lawsuit if the proper standard of care was not followed. Key questions include: Was the patient's risk assessed correctly? Were proper preventive measures employed? Did the plan of care require adjustments based on the patient's response?

If you believe that you may have suffered from medical malpractice, it is important to speak with an attorney who specializes in this area as soon as possible. Upon meeting with a medical malpractice attorney, you will be asked to explain what happened in as much detail as possible. It is helpful to bring a copy of your medical records as well. The attorney will then be able to discuss your legal options with you.

For more information about the treatment of pressure ulcers, please stay tuned for tomorrow's post.

The Laurel medical malpractice lawyers of [Hyatt & Weber, P.A.](#) understand the potentially devastating impact of a serious medical mistake. If you or someone you love has been injured due to someone else's negligence, we are here to help. Our Laurel injury attorneys are experienced and dedicated to pursuing the compensation you deserve.

To better understand your rights, contact us today at leads@hwlaw.com or 410-777-5707 for a free consultation.