

# HQIC Patient Safety: Pressure Injury

## Welcome!

- All lines are muted, so please ask your questions in the chat box.
- For technical issues, chat to all panelists.
- Please actively participate in polling questions that pop up on the lower right-hand side of your screen.

**We will get started shortly!**

# HQIC Pressure Injury: Tools for Prevention



Sara Phillips, MBA, BSN, CPHQ

Tracy Rutland, MBA/MHA, CLSSBB

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# Making Health Care Better *Together*

## **COLLABORATORS:**

Alabama Hospital Association  
Alliant Health Solutions  
Comagine Health  
Georgia Hospital Association  
KFMC Health Improvement Partners  
Konza

## Hospital Quality Improvement

# Welcome from all of us!



# Sara Phillips, Comagine Health

## Tracy Rutland, Georgia Hospital Association



**Tracy Rutland**

Quality Improvement/Patient Safety Specialist,  
Georgia Hospital Association  
[trutland@gha.org](mailto:trutland@gha.org)



**Sara Phillips**

Senior Improvement Advisor,  
Comagine Health  
[sphillips@comagine.org](mailto:sphillips@comagine.org)



# Pressure Injury Prevention Patient Safety Network Objectives

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Participants will be able to:

- Understand the variables associated with skin injury in COVID-19 patients.
- State the elements of an effective pressure injury prevention program.
- Reduce pressure injury occurrences in their facility.

# Today's Learning Objectives

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- Learn Today:
  - Understand the variables associated with skin injury in COVID-19 patients.
  - State the elements of an effective pressure injury prevention program.
- Use Tomorrow:
  - Implement an effective pressure injury prevention program.
  - Reduce pressure injury occurrences in their facility.

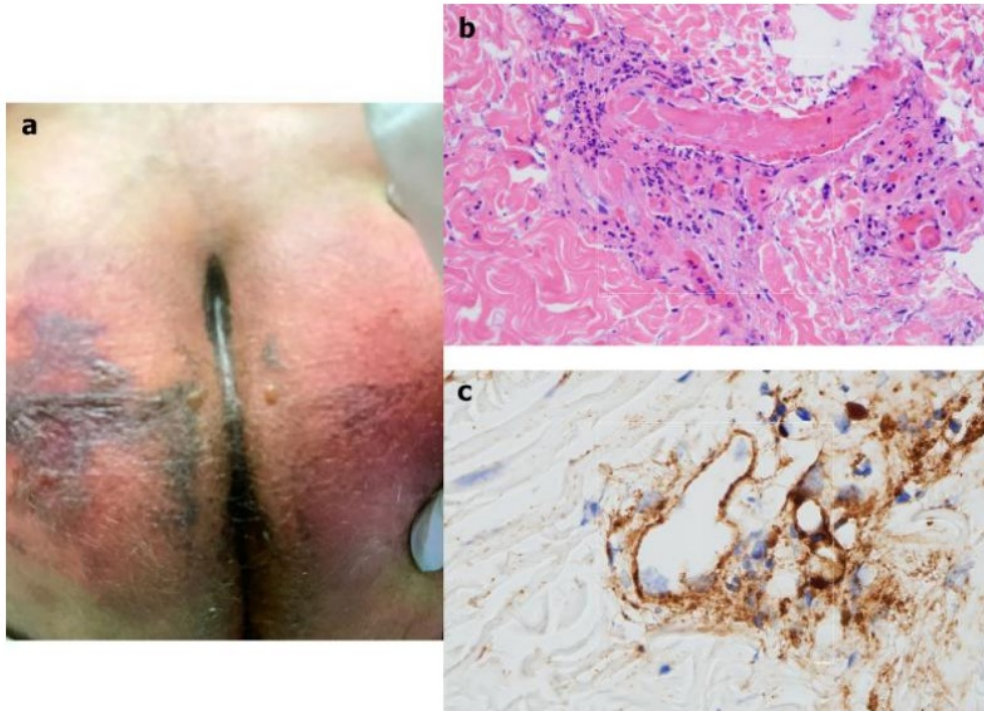
# Special Considerations for COVID-19 Patients

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- Obvious issues:
  - Hypoxia - ARDS
  - Immobility - Prone positioning
  - Hypotension and hypovolemia
  - Skin condition - diaphoresis, dehydration
  - Multiple medical devices
- Issues specific to COVID-19:
  - Reports of purpuric/purple skin and toe lesions
  - Rashes
  - Acral areas of erythema with vesicles or pustules
  - Urticarial lesions, maculopapular eruptions and livedo or necrosis

# What Is Different About Skin Injury in COVID-19?

Figure 2.



- Multiple forms and patterns associated with microvascular occlusion of vessels in the skin
- Can appear with a livedoid or lace-like pattern most commonly on the extremities, and others can be more purpuric in nature
- Rarely, patients have the appearance of purpura fulminans and frank necrosis or skin infarct

[COVID Skin Manifestations An.pdf \(ymaws.com\)](#)



# Why Isn't This a Pressure Injury?

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- One study of biopsied skin lesions demonstrated a pattern of tissue damage consistent with complement-mediated microvascular injury.
- “From the data available now, at least a subset of sustained, severe COVID-19 may define a type of catastrophic microvascular injury syndrome mediated by activation of complement pathways and an associated procoagulant state.” [COVID Skin Manifestations An.pdf \(ymaws.com\)](#)

# How Do You Differentiate? Clinical Guidance

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- Purple areas on non-pressure loaded surfaces that lack a pressure-shear etiology should not be classified as pressure injuries.
- These skin manifestations may also resemble other dermatological conditions associated with microvascular injury and thrombosis, such as retiform purpura, livedo reticularis and cutaneous vasculitis.
- Purple areas on pressure-loaded surfaces (prone or supine) require further investigation. Deeper soft tissue may also be damaged because of pressure-shear.
- Discolored areas on any body surface subjected to pressure loading or shear should be palpated to detect differences in tissue consistency and temperature to rule out concurrent deep tissue pressure injury.

# HAPI Prevention in Prone Positioned Patients With Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

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## Pressure injury prevention prior to prone positioning:

- Conduct skin checks.
- Use pressure redistribution surfaces and devices to off-load pressure from the bony prominences.
- Select an appropriate mattress or an overlay.
- Ensure the endotracheal tube securing device is removed and the tube taped into position.
- Use a liquid film-forming protective dressing applied at the forehead and chin.
- Lubricate the eyes and tape them closed.

# HAPI Prevention in Prone Positioned Patients With Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

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Pressure injury prevention in prone positioned patients:

- Use the swimmer's position.
- Check for uneven pressure redistribution.
- Where feasible, reposition the patient every two hours.
- Keep the skin clean and conduct regular skin checks.
- Ensure patients have adequate nutrition and hydration.

# HAPI Prevention in Prone Positioned Patients With Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

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Pressure injury prevention when patients are repositioned back to supine position:

- Assess the pressure points.
- Document a comprehensive skin assessment at all stages.
- Promote early mobilization.



# Wrapping Up

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## Elements of a strong HAPI program:

- Leadership support and engagement
- Education designed to ensure staff competency
- Utilization of a team approach to prevention
- Timely, ongoing skin assessment using a validated tool
- Implementation of evidence-based pressure injury prevention products
- Early intervention with evidence-based products when pressure areas are noted
- Monitoring of and reporting of compliance
- Root cause analysis of all events

# Resources

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Team, V., Jones, A., & Weller, C. D. (2022). Prevention of Hospital-Acquired Pressure Injury in COVID-19 Patients in the Prone Position. *Intensive & critical care nursing*, 68, 103142.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8418919/?msckid=1e6f952ea62e11ec9cdd2ce57d755a60> -

Black, J., Cuddigan, J. & the members of the National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel Board of Directors. (2020). Skin manifestations with COVID-19: The purple skin and toes that you are seeing may not be deep tissue pressure injury. An NPIAP White Paper.

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/npiap.com/resource/resmgr/white\\_papers/COVID\\_Skin\\_Manifestations\\_An.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/npiap.com/resource/resmgr/white_papers/COVID_Skin_Manifestations_An.pdf) -

COVID 19 Resources. National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel

<https://npiap.com/general/custom.asp?page=COVID-19Resources&msckid=3701625ba63911ec9238010295d73808> -

# Key Takeaways

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- Learn Today:
  - Understand the variables associated with skin injury in COVID-19 patients.
  - State the elements of an effective pressure injury prevention program.
- Use Tomorrow:
  - Implement an effective pressure injury prevention program.
  - Reduce pressure injury occurrences in their facility.

**How will this change what you do?**



# Getting Started

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- Review the resource materials provided today.
- Develop a plan for implementation.
- Revise your reduction goal – short-term and long-term.

# Questions?


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Email us at [HospitalQuality@allianthealth.org](mailto:HospitalQuality@allianthealth.org) or call us at 678-527-3681.



# HQIC Goals



## Behavioral Health Outcomes & Opioid Misuse

- ✓ Promote opioid best practices
- ✓ Decrease high dose opioid prescribing and opioid adverse events in all settings
- ✓ Increase access to behavioral health services



## Patient Safety

- ✓ Reduce risky medication combinations
- ✓ Reduce adverse drug events
- ✓ Reduce *C. diff* in all settings



## Quality of Care Transitions

- ✓ Convene community coalitions
- ✓ Identify and promote optical care for super utilizers
- ✓ Reduce community-based adverse drug events

# Upcoming Events

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## **WALK with the WOC and Step into a Brighter Future of Pressure Injury Prevention**

**April 26, 2022, at 2 p.m. ET | 1 p.m. CT | 11 a.m. PT**

**Register Here:** <https://quality.allianthealth.org/conference/walk-with-the-woc-and-step-into-a-brighter-future-of-pressure-injury-prevention/>



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## Hospital Quality Improvement



@alliantqio



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**Thank you for joining us!  
How did we do today?**

Alliant Health Solutions



Alliant Health Solutions

