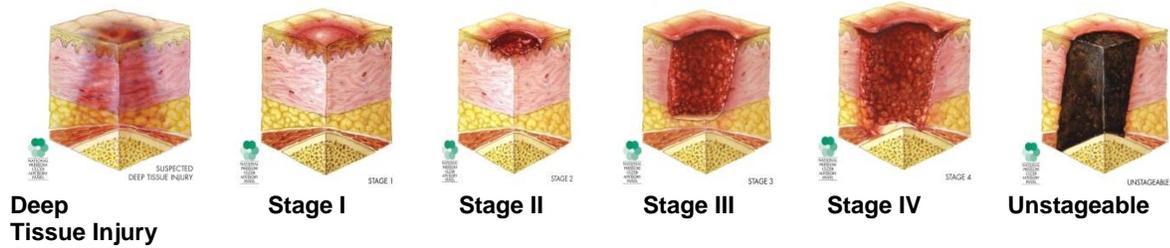


National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel (NPUAP) Staging System for Pressure Injuries (Updated 2016)



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Descriptions

Deep Tissue Injury

- Persistent non-blanchable deep red, maroon, purple discoloration
- Intact or non-intact skin
- May present as a blood filled blister
- Pain and temperature change often precede skin color change
- With appropriate interventions, may resolve without tissue loss. Otherwise, may quickly evolve into an open injury



Stage I

- Persistent non-blanchable erythema (redness)
- Intact skin
- Blanchable erythema or changes in skin sensation, temperature or firmness may precede skin color change
- With appropriate interventions, may resolve without tissue loss. Otherwise, may evolve into an open injury



Stage II

- Loss of the epidermis with partial thickness loss of the dermis
- Shallow open injury with a moist red/pink wound bed
- Includes intact or open/ruptured serum-filled blister



Stage III

- Loss of the epidermis and dermis. Subcutaneous fat may be visible but bone, tendon, cartilage, ligament, fascia or muscle are not exposed or directly palpable
- Slough may be present but does not obscure the depth of tissue loss
- May include undermining and tunneling



- Depth varies by anatomical location:
 - Shallow on bridge of the nose, ear, occiput and malleolus
 - Extremely deep in areas like the buttocks

Stage IV

- Loss of the epidermis and dermis with exposed (or directly palpable) bone, tendon, cartilage, ligament, fascia or muscle
- Slough or eschar may be present on some parts of the wound bed
- Often include undermining and tunneling
- The depth of a stage IV pressure injury varies by anatomical location



Unstageable

- Full thickness skin and tissue loss in which the base of the injury is obscured by slough and/or eschar
- Until enough slough and/or eschar is removed to expose the base of the wound, the true depth, and therefore stage, cannot be determined
- Stable (dry, adherent, intact without erythema or fluctuance) eschar on the heels serves as "the body's natural (biological) cover" and should not be removed



Medical Device Related Pressure Injury

- Pressure injury directly related to the use of a medical device, i.e. a blood pressure cuff, compression stockings, nasogastric tube, oxygen tubing, etc.
- Injury usually closely mirrors the shape of the offending device
- Staged using the NPUAP Staging System

Mucosal Membrane Pressure Injury

- Pressure injury on a mucous membrane, usually caused by a medical device
- Due to the anatomy of the tissue, these injuries cannot be staged using the NPUAP Staging System