

# Reduction in Pressure Ulcer Incidence Resulting from the Implementation of a Shared-Risk Skin and Wound Care Management Model<sup>1</sup>



## Abstract

The occurrence of pressure ulcers in long-term care facilities is a challenge to practitioners. A multi faceted program for prevention was developed for over 40 facilities which reported detailed information over the course of a year. The program produced a significant drop in the incidence of facility acquired ulcers.

## Interventions

In an effort to reduce wound incidence rates and exposure to risk, a comprehensive, census-based, fixed-fee skin and wound management program was developed. The program provided universal pressure management on the Tempur-Med® Therapeutic Mattress, AHCPR compliant prevention and treatment protocols, on-going staff training, standardized skin and wound care product formularies, centralized documentation systems, clinical oversight, and shared liability between supplier and provider.

## Results

The interventions provided under the program sustained better performance than standard care, as measured by historical wound incidence rates. During 2002, over

1.5 million resident days were included in the data. Significant reductions in facility acquired pressure ulcers (~75% of baseline) and wound size (~12% per week) were observed. Anecdotal reports of other clinical benefits were also received.

## Conclusions

The data suggests that motivated supplier/provider partnering, utilization of disease-specific standards, and third party oversight can reliably attain desirable clinical outcomes. Universal use of the Tempur-Med® Therapeutic Mattress is also an effective intervention in a comprehensive pressure ulcer prevention program.

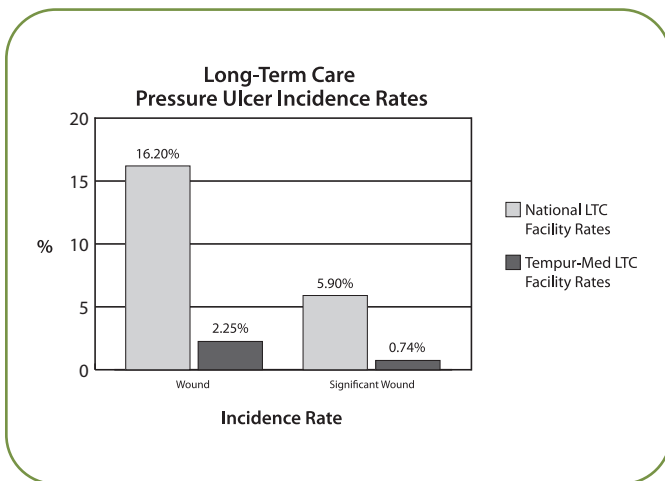
Studies were performed by Tempur-Pedic Medical.

<sup>1</sup> Rick Fontaine, MBA, Reduction in pressure ulcer incidence resulting from the implementation of a shared-risk skin and wound care management model, Symposium on Advanced Woundcare, Juried Poster, 2003.

NOTE: As with any case study, the results reported should not be interpreted as a guarantee or warranty of similar results. Individual results may vary depending on the patient's physical condition. Unless otherwise specified, any economic value or savings reported is based on data provided by the facilities and observations of the individuals involved in the study.

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