



## INCIDENT REPORTING: SKIN INTEGRITY

**Skin integrity** refers to the overall health of our skin and its ability to function properly. Healthcare associated impaired skin integrity is when a skin tear, infection, pressure, or other skin injury is **caused by a care intervention or unintended variation in care** (Accreditation Canada, ROP Handbook, 2024).

Any changes in skin integrity that occur as a result of care intervention or unintended variation in care are reportable incidents in the **Provincial Safety Management System (PSMS)**. **Skin/tissue** is an option on the icon wall in **PSMS**.

### WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT I SHOULD REPORT IN PSMS?

Severity Level	Example(s)
<b>Level 1</b> ( <i>near miss</i> )	A hot beverage arrives on a pediatric tray and family intervene before a child reaches it.
<b>Level 2</b> ( <i>no harm</i> )	<b>*Stage I pressure injury</b> ; the skin is a slightly different colour, but there are no open wounds.
<b>Level 3</b> ( <i>minor harm</i> )	Abrasions, skin breakdowns and/or tears, pain, minor burns, contusions, bruises. <b>*Stage II pressure injury</b> ; the skin breaks open and an ulcer starts to form. <b>*Stage III pressure injury</b> ; the sore becomes worse and creates a crater in the tissue.
<b>Level 4</b> ( <i>serious harm</i> )	All burns related to care (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> degree). <b>*Stage IV pressure injury</b> ; the sore is very deep causing extensive damage.

**\*Referring to pressure injuries acquired after admission.**

Any stage III or IV pressure injury acquired after admission to hospital is also considered a **never event**. A never event is a patient safety incident that results in serious harm or death and **is preventable using organizational checks and balances**. There are fifteen recognized never events for hospital related care.

Check out the Wound Care Modules on the Staff Resource Centre for further resources and education: [Wound Care Modules](#)