



DID YOU KNOW?



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