

NPUAP Pressure Ulcer Staging

Overview:

Pressure ulcers can be classified using a staging system, which can be used to describe lesions and compare therapies.

Findings	Stage
Nonblanching erythema of intact skin	I
Partial-thickness skin loss involving the epidermis, dermis or both. The ulcer is superficial and may appear as an abrasion, blister or shallow crater.	II
Full-thickness skin loss involving damage or necrosis to subcutaneous tissue, which may extend down to but not through underlying fascia. The ulcer may appear as a deep crater with or without undermining of adjacent tissue.	III
Full-thickness skin loss with extensive destruction, tissue necrosis or damage to muscle, bone or supporting structures such as joint capsule	IV

References:

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