

Pressure Care & Cushions

If you feel that you need a pressure relieving cushion or would like to be considered for pressure mapping, and you already have equipment from SWaPS, then contact SWaPS on the telephone number or email address below.

For more information, call:
01743 444051

Shropshire Wheelchair and Posture Service
Shropshire Rehabilitation Centre
Lancaster Road
Harlescott
Shrewsbury
SY1 3NJ
Email: Shropcom.swaps@nhs.net

Patient Information:

This leaflet provides advice and support to patients about

Pressure care & Cushions

from

Shropshire Wheelchair and Posture Service (SWaPS)

www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk



What are pressure ulcers?

- Pressure ulcers are also known as pressure sores or bed sores.
- They are an injury that affects areas of the skin and underlying tissue.
- They are caused when the affected area of skin is placed under too much pressure.
- Skin can also become damaged by repeated friction of the skin rubbing against another surface.

If care isn't taken to protecting the skin, then pressure ulcers can become really dangerous. The wounds can be large, painful and take a considerable amount of time to heal.

Who gets pressure ulcers?

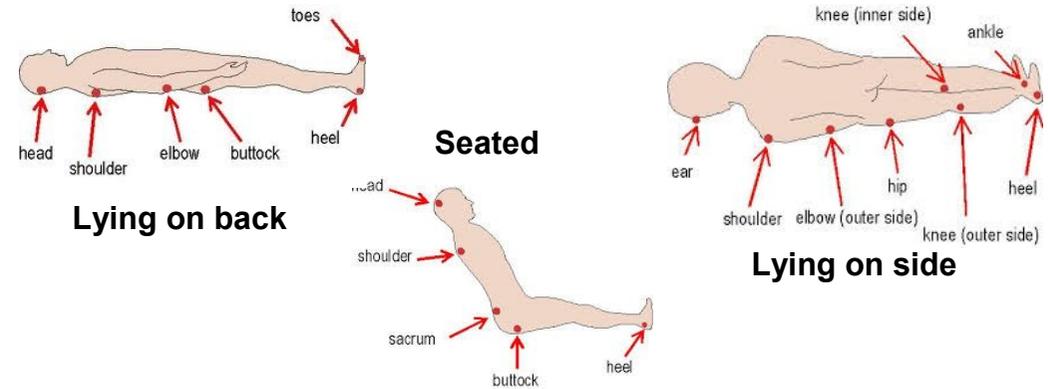
Many people are at risk of developing a pressure ulcer, it is not just people who are confined to a bed, but people who sit in chairs, wheelchairs etc. People can sometimes relieve the effects of pressure, friction or shearing by moving around, changing position and adjusting clothing or bedding.

Signs to look for

- Rubbing of the skin on a surface
- Previous skin damage, resulting in scar tissue
- Inadequate diet or fluid intake
- Impairment of skin sensation over a part of the body

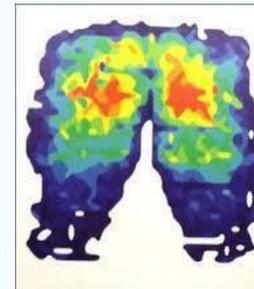


Common locations of pressure ulcers:



What do SWaPS provide?

SWaPS provide pressure relieving cushions to clients who are at risk of developing a pressure sore or who have already got a pressure sore.



SWaPS also have **pressure mapping equipment**, which involves using sensors to quantify the pressure between two contacting objects, such as a person and their support surface, in this case it would be the pressure relieving cushion.