



# Working together to prevent **pressure ulcers** in care homes

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## The Scottish Patient Safety Programme (SPSP) is a unique national programme that supports the National Health and Wellbeing Outcome 7: People using health and social care services are **safe from harm**.

**Older people living in care homes** are some of the most vulnerable people in society and have a higher risk of developing pressure ulcers. Pressure ulcers are an unwanted complication of illness, severe physical disability or increasing frailty.

Following the announcement in June 2015 of an ambitious **aim** to reduce pressure ulcers across all care settings by 50%, SPSP has been working with Scottish Care and the Care Inspectorate to develop a Reducing Pressure Ulcers in Care Homes Improvement Programme.

This **collaboration** combines the expertise of SPSP in improving safety with the expertise and established relationships of Scottish Care and the Care Inspectorate in the care home sector.

Following a national recruitment process, four **Health and Social Care Partnerships** were recruited to take part in the programme:

- Argyll and Bute and Highland (joint)
- Dumfries & Galloway
- East Dunbartonshire, and
- Perth and Kinross.

This improvement programme will **develop and test a range of resources and approaches** to prevent pressure ulcers in five care homes within each of these Health and Social Care Partnerships. The long term aim is to **spread** the resources and approaches developed during this initial phase to the rest of Scotland.

The **Prevention and Management of Pressure Ulcers Standards** published in September 2016 will provide a robust framework to guide our improvement efforts. A copy of these standards is enclosed for your information.

If you are interested in receiving information on our progress and future networking opportunities, please **contact** [hcis.PSiPCTeam@nhs.net](mailto:hcis.PSiPCTeam@nhs.net)

You can also find information about the Reducing Pressure Ulcers in Care Homes Improvement Programme by visiting our **website**: [spsp.scot/programmes/primary-care/pressure-ulcers](https://spsp.scot/programmes/primary-care/pressure-ulcers)

and by following us on **Twitter**:

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