

Research Poster Awards 2023



Residential Aged Care best practice pressure injury intervention equipment audit (heel wedge/bed cradle) 2022/2023, a Safety and Quality Clinical Audit.

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INTRODUCTION

Pressure injuries continue to be highlighted as an acquired complication in health care and noted to be mostly preventable. Nghiem, Campbell, Walker et al have estimated the economic burden of pressure injuries in the Australian Public Health System as \$9.11 billion with a prevalence of occurrence at 12.9 %.

Barwon Health RiskMan data for 2022 identified heels as the main anatomical location for pressure injuries across the organisation. Residential Aged Care, has evidence proven, best practice pressure injury prevention equipment to use as interventions to help prevent pressure injuries developing on residents identified as high risk of pressure injury. Such equipment, MacMed heel wedges and bed cradles, are often limited in stock across the RAC sites. When staff do not have access to pressure injury prevention equipment, it effects the proactive care which we provide our residents and therefore can have a negative impact on our 'at risk' residents. The author's clinical Podiatry role in Residential Aged Care at Barwon Health provided an opportunity to encourage awareness and change to the program and highlight the importance of pressure injury prevention for our aged population. At the time of this audit, there was no audit in this space which provided evidence of the numbers of residents who are identified as a risk of pressure injury and did not have interventions in place at the bed side.

Due to various COVID-19 and gastro lock down periods, this audit period commenced September 2022 for Wallace Lodge, October 2022 for Blakiston Lodge, February 2023 for Alan David Lodge and TCP and finishing with Percy Baxter Lodge March 2023.

OBJECTIVES

To Investigate

- The number of heel wedge and bed cradle equipment across the RAC sites - Wallace Lodge, Percy Baxter, Blakiston Lodge and Alan David Lodge, TCP.
- The pressure injury risk screen assessment tools (Waterlow, Norton, Braden) for each admitted resident and note each residents risk score and category of risk.
- The number of residents identified as a moderate to significant pressure injury risk and to ascertain how many of these identified residents have BEST PRACTICE pressure injury prevention interventions in place (heel wedge and bed cradle). This could be a single intervention in place or both heel wedge and bed cradle combined in place per resident identified.
- The number of residents identified as moderate to significant pressure injury risk who have ANY pressure prevention interventions in place (pillow positioning, heel wedge, bed cradle)
- The gaps in the equipment levels so that the program can purchase equipment to provide for the proportion of residents who have been identified as moderate to significant pressure injury risk but due to limitations in stock, do not have the interventions in place.
- The recommendations within the Barwon Health Prompt Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Manual Guidelines for providing best practice for our residents

METHOD

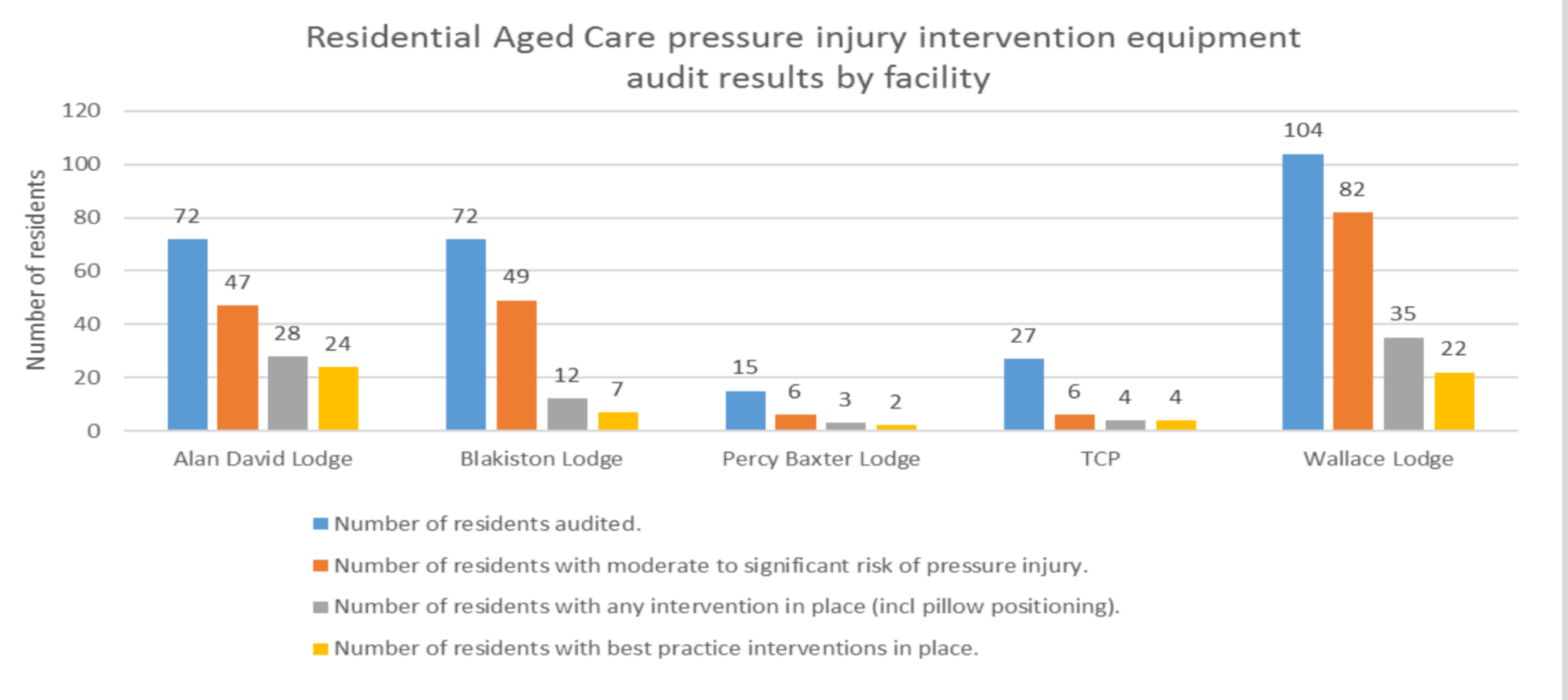
- Email was sent to all Facility Managers informing the upcoming heel wedge/bed cradle audit. Email asked the question if they were aware of the number of heel wedges and bed cradles which each facility had.
- A list of all Residential Aged Care residents and TCP clients was obtained via the Data Warehouse Sub Acute/Aged Care current resident listing report.
- Each facility was allocated a time.
- Each resident's room was audited, with consent, to see if they were using a heel wedge or bed cradle on their bed OR if it was in their room. Alternative pillow positioning use was audited and inappropriate equipment use was noted (end of bed bolsters).
- Each facility stock room/shed space was checked for spare stock.
- Each resident's Pressure Injury Risk was obtained by reviewing the Risk Assessment Tool scores in place at the time of the audit (Braden/II, Waterlow, Norton) via Platinum 5 and the resident file.
- Data collated and analysed.
- Recommendations outlined.

RESULTS

Table below shows the admitted resident numbers and the current available pressure injury prevention equipment, includes spare and in use, at each of the Barwon Health Residential Aged Care sites.

Facility	Number of residents audited.	Number of heel wedges	Number of bed cradles	Number where pillow positioning used
Alan David Lodge	72	16 (+5 spare stock)	15 (no spare stock)	4
Blakiston Lodge	72	5 (+2 spare stock)	3 (+7 spare stock)	5
Percy Baxter Lodge	15	0 in use (+4 spare stock)	2 (+2 spare stock)	1
TCP	27	4 (+ADL spare stock)	1 (no spare stock)	0
Wallace Lodge	104	9 (no spare stock)	14 (+2 spare stock)	13
Totals	290	45 (incl. spare stock)	46 (incl. spare stock)	23

The graph below shows the proportion of residents who have been identified as moderate to significant risk of a pressure injury who do not have any pressure injury interventions in place.



DISCUSSION

- Barwon Health Prompt Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Manual Guidelines state that heel wedges are available within all inpatient areas across Barwon Health to aid in offloading 'at risk' or injured heels.
- As per audit results, Residential Aged Care has limited stock of heel wedges and cannot possibly meet the recommendation of the Barwon Health Prompt Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Manual Guideline for providing best practice for our residents.
- Gaps in staff knowledge exist in utilising the spare stock (11 heel wedges and 11 bed cradles) as proactive pressure injury prevention interventions for moderate to significant risk residents.
- There is a high proportion of residents who have been identified as risk of pressure injury who do not have best practice, or any, interventions in place.

CONCLUSION

Aged Care is a rewarding and challenging area to work in. Acquired pressure injuries are mostly preventable providing we have the resources available to be proactive in the care which we provide for our most vulnerable population.

Audits are an essential tool to ensure we remain accountable to best practice guidelines. The audit results provide an understanding of where we need to purchase additional equipment in our Barwon Health Aged Care setting.

REFERENCES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Barwon Health Prompt Pressure Injury Prevention and Management Manual