

Pressure Care Equipment – Clinical Reasoning

Item	Clinical Reasoning for provision
<p>Static Mattress (High specification reactive foam mattress / non-powered pressure distribution support surface)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults who are considered at risk of developing a pressure ulcer in community care settings following a holistic assessment and following consideration of all other care management options E.g. Regular turning, optimum diet, encouraged mobilization. Reduction of moisture. • For individuals with pressure ulcers. • Consideration should be given to location of skin damage. Pressure mattresses can provide better pressure distribution to any parts of the body in contact with the mattress. This mattress may not be beneficial to someone with a pressure ulcer on their toe or ear for example.
<p>Dynamic Mattress (Hybrid or Proplus)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should not be considered as an 'up-grade' to a static mattress but as an 'alternative' tool for pressure area management when a robust care plan has been implemented and the patient's skin integrity is still deteriorating on a static mattress. • Dynamic Mattresses should not be considered if they will prevent the patient being able to move their own position. • If issued during an acute episode of illness/immobility – regular review and issue of an alternative mattress e.g. static should be considered to meet their needs after recovery to allow for improved health status and general mobility.
<p>Static Dyna-tek cushion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient identified of being at risk of developing a pressure ulcer, patients who sit for prolonged periods and are unable to off load / reposition themselves or patients who lack sensation. • Should only be provided if use of the cushion does not compromise the patient's posture and position significantly. i.e. Cushion does not prevent feet from being supported. • Should always be issued alongside a pressure relieving regime.

Heel/boot protector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be used to offload heels but only when consideration has been given to using a pillow to offload and this has been deemed unsuitable. • These can be used in conjunction with a pressure redistribution mattress, where the mattress doesn't relieve the high peak pressures to the heels. • Should only be used when correct training has been given in its fitting and use. • Should not be used in the following circumstances: oedema, small limbs, infection control issues • Should not be used when mobilising – due to risk of falls.
Flexi gel pads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be considered when patient has contractures and there is a need to protect between bony prominences. • Consideration should be given to the use of pillows to support position and off loading • Advised for use of positioning and not pressure relief – as per manufacturer's guidance • Risk - Can reduce the effectiveness of the mattress.