

MEDIA RELEASE

Front-line clinicians being injured by their PPE

The COVID-19 virus pandemic has led to unprecedented reports of device-related pressure injuries in patients and health care workers. The pressure injuries are related to the wearing of personal protective equipment amongst health care workers and facial pressure injuries in COVID-19 affected patients as a complication of wearing ventilators to manage respiratory failure.

Device-related pressure injuries are commonly associated with use of medical devices on patients following intensive or sustained contact. This can result in compression and deformation of the skin and subsequent injury.

A study conducted over 2015-16 found that over one quarter of hospital patients suffered from device related pressure injuries, and that some clinicians “were unaware of the implications of medical devices in contact with the skin”.¹

With clinicians now routinely protecting themselves with enhanced and extended use of personal protective equipment, many are experiencing device related pressure injuries themselves.

To help increase awareness of device-related pressure injuries, Australia’s peak body for wound prevention and management, Wounds Australia, is hosting a ‘Device Related Pressure Injuries’ webinar, presented by Professor Keryln Carville, a globally recognised pressure injury expert.

Presented by Professor Keryln Carville, the webinar will discuss the issues surrounding device-related pressure injuries and the evidence for prevention and management.

This webinar will be livestreamed on Wednesday 6 May 2020.

For livestreaming times and registration please visit woundsaustralia.com.au

ENDS

Media Contact: Wounds Australia Communications | comms@woundsaustralia.org

¹ Barakat-Johnson, M., Barnett, C., Wand, T., and White, K. 2017. ‘Medical device-related pressure injuries: An exploratory descriptive study in an acute tertiary hospital in Australia’, *Journal of Tissue Viability*, Nov 26(4), pp. 246-253. doi: 10.1016/j.jtv.2017.09.008 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29050901>