



## National Pressure Ulcers to Zero: A Celebration and Network Event

A national celebration and networking event is being hosted by the QID on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to mark World Pressure Ulcer Day. The purpose of this event is to further drive the momentum and to build on the PUTZ pressure ulcer prevention campaign. Though connectively and shared purpose it is anticipated that this event may further mobilise a national movement with vision and ambition to significantly reduce and prevent pressure ulcers across all aspects and areas of Irish life.

The objectives of the event are to:

1. Demonstrate a person centred value system
2. Heighten public and healthcare workers awareness that pressure ulcers are a problem
3. Promote Pressure Ulcers as a national and international safety priority
4. Acknowledge that Pressure Ulcers are preventable
5. Promote pressure ulcer prevention as everyone's business and everyone's responsibility
6. Sustain the traction and momentum around pressure ulcer prevention and in doing so to also celebrate and showcase Pressure Ulcers to Zero (PUTZ) collaborative healthcare team's stories and successes.

There are three underlying themes threaded throughout the event that are aligned to continuously improving and sustaining pressure ulcer prevention in Ireland.

**Person Centeredness** – While Person Centeredness is a multidimensional concept it essentially places the patient/client at the core of care delivery and espouses the development of therapeutic relationships between healthcare professionals, patients and their significant others. These relationships are built on mutual trust, understanding and sharing collective knowledge. Person Centeredness is key in pressure ulcer prevention as it is everyone's business, everyone's responsibility and everyone's concern.

**Holding the Gains** – The complexities of sustaining Quality improvement initiatives is a constant challenge and a source of tremendous frustration and disappointment. Nonetheless there are critical sustainability factors to consider to hold the gains and to plan spread that are common to every quality improvement initiative.

**Pressure Ulcer Prevention** – Common to all Phases of the collaborative is the will to improve and to reduce pressure ulcers. The energy, commitment and teamwork to reach milestones, manage challenges and ultimately improve pressure ulcer prevention are captured in participating team posters. Phase three teams will showcase their collective power in changing practice and will as individuals, teams and healthcare community celebrate their achievements.

# Pressure Ulcers to Zero PUTZ Collaborative

## Introduction

The Pressure Ulcers to Zero (PUTZ) safety programme is one of four national safety programmes established and sponsored by the HSE Quality Improvement Division (QID). The aim of the QID safety programmes is to prevent harm to those who use healthcare services. The PUTZ collaborative places an intentional focus on pressure ulcer prevention as pressure ulcers are:

- An increasing problem that affect thousands of people unnecessarily every year
- Painful, debilitating and can be life threatening

## The key benefits of the PUTZ Collaborative are to:

- Reduce newly acquired pressure ulcers across participating sites within determined timeframes
- Support participating teams in developing and improving knowledge, skills and expertise in pressure ulcer prevention and in using quality improvement approaches
- Develop a learning community nationally which will accelerate learning and share good practice
- Promote a culture of learning and continuous improvement

## Phase One and Phase Two

The first joint Health Service Executive (HSE)/Royal College of Physicians in Ireland (RCPI) PUTZ Collaborative began in February 2014 in the Dublin North East region of Ireland. The primary aim was to reduce the number of avoidable pressure ulcers across participating teams by 50% within the timeframe of the collaborative and to increase the capacity and capability of frontline clinical teams to improve the care they deliver. Phase 1 of the collaborative realised a 73% reduction in avoidable pressure ulcers. Collaborative participants extended to multidisciplinary healthcare workers from counties Louth, Meath, Cavan, Monaghan and North Dublin across a range of settings including hospitals, primary care centres, nursing homes and other community and private residential centres.

The HSE/RCPI PUTZ Collaborative concluded a second collaborative (Phase 2) in June 2016 with participation from multidisciplinary teams across the Ireland East hospital group, Community Healthcare Organisations 5, 6, 8, & 9 and private residential nursing homes. Phase 2 teams achieved a 49% reduction in pressure ulcers over a nine month period.

## Phase Three

In October 2016 the HSE Quality Improvement Division (QID) began the strategic planning/oversight and operational re-design for the delivery of the third collaborative, Phase 3, which commenced in March 2017. Phase 3 focuses on the acute sector with multidisciplinary participating teams from all hospitals in the South South-West Hospital Group and Dublin Midlands Hospital Group. The Phase 3 collaborative is based on the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) (2003) Breakthrough Series Collaborative Model and the Framework for Improving Quality (HSE, 2016). Phase 3 is six months into its twelve month cycle having thus far completed three out of four learning sessions and is currently engaged in the last of three action periods. The aim of Phase 3 is to reduce newly acquired pressure ulcers by 50% across participating teams in a six month timeframe and to sustain this reduction by twelve months (28<sup>th</sup> February 2018).

The role of participating teams, in every phase, is to implement the SSKIN bundle which is a specific five step process that when performed collectively and reliably can improve pressure ulcer prevention as it guides assessment and prompts targeted prevention strategies.

This implementation process is supported by:

- Using the Model for Improvement to structure improvement efforts and to guide implementation of the SSKIN bundle
- Participating at collaborative learning sessions and engaging in action period activities and site visits
- Working with the wider multidisciplinary team to test changes for improvement
- Raising awareness of pressure ulcer prevention across the ward/unit/team
- Providing updates on progress and improvements through relevant governance pathways.
- Sharing the learning and experience with other parts of the organisation

Formative evaluations suggest that Phase 3 participant's experienced the learning sessions as extremely useful and relevant, and that the collaborative is meeting their anticipated requirements and expectations. Furthermore a review of participant Knowledge and Skills through repeated self-assessment provides optimism that the learning sessions and action periods have developed subject matter and improvement science capacity. Story boards also presented by teams at each learning session provide testament to the application of learning in the real world. The September data will be particularly insightful as a 5th consecutive month of a decrease in ward acquired pressure ulcers, would signal a positive impact of change. Phase 3 has achieved a 37% reduction in newly acquired pressure ulcers across participating teams up to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017. It is expected that the collaborative teams will cumulatively achieve the target of 50% reduction by 30th September 2017. In addition, June –August data depicts that >83% of the newly acquired pressure ulcers are Grade 1 or Grade 2. It is anticipated that PUTZ 4 will focus on CHOs and planning is due to commence in the near future.

The greatest challenge reported by all participating teams across each collaborative is to continuously improve, to sustain momentum and to spread initiatives. This further augments the purpose of the national celebration and network event to make pressure ulcer prevention everyone's responsibility and everyone's business.