



ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE ADVANCEMENT  
OF WOUND CARE

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October 31, 2016

RE: **AAWC Board of Director's Position: NPUAP's Pressure Ulcer Staging Changes**

Dear AAWC Members,

At the AAWC Board of Directors meeting held on October 6, 2016 in Las Vegas during the SAWC Fall conference, and in response to the concerns expressed about the proposed changes to the pressure ulcer staging system, it was decided to release a position statement addressing these proposed changes.

Please reference [this link](#) to the **AAWC Board of Director's position statement** on the changes to the pressure ulcer staging system as proposed by the NPUAP. We ask that you share it with your colleagues and decision makers. **To access and share the various editorials/articles that have been published concerning this topic, [click here](#).**

Although the NPUAP is held in the highest esteem, the recent change in terminology from pressure "ulcer" to pressure "injury" poses numerous threats to our wounded patients and the clinicians who care for them. The discussion regarding this terminology actually perpetuates a staging system that is in great need of revision to reflect the current research describing the underlying mechanism of pressure induced tissue damage. In addition, the proposed changes introduce descriptors to the individual stages that are disputable.

In the next few months, the AAWC will join with national and international colleagues who are wound healing and pressure ulcer experts and colleagues who represent the various interdisciplinary wound care professional organizations to take the appropriate steps to develop an accurate and reliable classification system for pressure induced tissue damage. **During this time, we recommend that you NOT adopt the new terminology at your facility or in your organization. In the interim, it is advisable to continue using the well-known EXISTING system and ICD-10 coding to stage and classify pressure ulcers.**

If you have any questions about the AAWC Board of Director's position, please feel free to contact any of the [AAWC Board Members](#).

Sincerely,

AAWC Board of Directors