

CADTH RAPID RESPONSE REPORT: SUMMARY OF ABSTRACTS

# Soaker Pads for Residents in Long Term Care: Clinical Evidence and Guidelines

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## Research Questions

1. What is the clinical evidence regarding disposable soaking pads and skin breakdown for residents in long term care facilities?
2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding disposable soaking pads for residents in long term care facilities?

## Key Findings

One evidence-based guideline was identified regarding the use of soaker pads for residents in long term care.

## Methods

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, CINAHL, The Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases and a focused Internet search. No methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval by publication type. The search was limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2012 and October 27, 2017.

## Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Selection Criteria**

<b>Population</b>	Residents in long term care facilities, with or without bowel or urinary incontinence issues
<b>Intervention</b>	Disposable soaking pads (e.g., Chux, Dynarex, Underpads) placed underneath patient
<b>Comparator</b>	No treatment
<b>Outcomes</b>	Q1: Skin breakdown, improper wound healing, development of pressure ulcers; Q2: Evidence based guidelines
<b>Study Designs</b>	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines

## Results

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

One evidence-based guideline was identified regarding the use of soaker pads for residents in long term care. No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or non-randomized studies were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

## Overall Summary of Findings

One evidence-based guideline published jointly by the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, and the Pan Pacific Pressure Injury Alliance was identified regarding the use of incontinence pads for the prevention of pressure ulcers.<sup>1</sup> It is recommended to choose an incontinence pad, clothing, or bed linen that is compatible with the chosen support surface for the patient and to limit the amount of linens and pads placed on the bed surface.<sup>1</sup> This recommendation is regarded as a strong, positive recommendation and rated at a level C (indirect evidence) for strength of evidence.<sup>1</sup>

## References Summarized

### Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

### Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

No literature identified.

### Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

### Non-Randomized Studies

No literature identified.

### Guidelines and Recommendations

1. National Guideline Clearinghouse. Guideline summary: interventions for prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers. In: Prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers: clinical practice guideline. In: National Guideline Clearinghouse [Internet]. Rockville (MD) : Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. 2009 (revised 2014) [cited 2017 Nov 13]. Available from: <https://guideline.gov/summaries/summary/48865>  
*See: Support Surface Use*

## Appendix — Further Information

### Non-Randomized Studies – Alternative Comparator

2. Motta G, Milne C, Wendling S. The impact of an absorbent underpad on the prevention and/or improvement of incontinence associated dermatitis in skilled nursing facility (SNF) residents [New York, New York]. *J Am Med Dir Assoc*. 2016 Mar;17(3):B29.
3. Francis K, Pang SM, Cohen B, Salter H, Homel P. Disposable versus reusable absorbent underpads for prevention of hospital-acquired incontinence-associated dermatitis and pressure injuries. *J Wound Ostomy Continence Nurs*. 2017 Jul;44(4):374-9.  
[PubMed: M:28549048](#)

### Non-Randomized Studies – Simulations

4. Williamson R, Lachenbruch C, VanGilder C. The effect of multiple layers of linens on surface interface pressure: results of a laboratory study. *Ostomy Wound Manage*. 2013 Jun;59(6):38-48.  
[PubMed: PM:23749661](#)
5. Williamson R, Lachenbruch C, VanGilder C. A laboratory study examining the impact of linen use on low-air-loss support surface heat and water vapor transmission rates. *Ostomy Wound Manage*. 2013 Aug;59(8):32-41.  
[PubMed: PM:23934376](#)

### Guidelines and Recommendations – Uncertain Intervention

6. National Guideline Clearinghouse. Guideline summary: pressure ulcer prevention. In: Evidence-based geriatric nursing protocols for best practice. In: National Guideline Clearinghouse [Internet]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. 2003 (revised 2012) [cited 2017 Nov 13]. Available from:  
<https://guideline.gov/summaries/summary/43935>  
*See: General Care Issues and Interventions – Prevention Recommendations – Skin Care*

### Review Articles

7. Bender JK, Faergemann J, Skold M. Skin health connected to the use of absorbent hygiene products: a review. *Dermatol Ther (Heidelb)* [Internet]. 2017 Sep [cited 2017 Nov 13];7(3):319-330. Available from:  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5574741>  
[PubMed: PM:28667496](#)
8. Rippon M, Colegrave M, Ousey K. Incontinence-associated dermatitis: reducing adverse events. *Br J Nurs*. 2016 Oct 13;25(18):1016-21.  
[PubMed: PM:27734729](#)