Mattresses or Overlays Used in Palliative End-of-Life Care: Clinical Evidence and Guidelines
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Questions or requests for information about this report can be directed to requests@cadth.ca
Research Questions
1. What is the clinical evidence regarding patient comfort and satisfaction with mattresses or mattress overlays used in palliative end-of-life care?
2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the use of mattresses or mattress overlays in palliative end-of-life care?

Key Findings
One non-randomized study and one evidence-based guideline were identified regarding the use of mattresses in palliative end-of-life care.

Methods
A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, the Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2014 and January 18, 2019. Internet links were provided, where available.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Patients requiring palliative end-of-life care in a facility or at home</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intervention</td>
<td>Mattresses overlays or pressure-relieving surfaces (e.g., specialized mattresses, gel pads, sheepskins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparator</td>
<td>Q1: No specialized surface; Compared with each other</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q2: No comparator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>Q1: Patient comfort, quality of life, ease of use</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q2: Guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Designs</td>
<td>Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 non-randomized study and one evidence-based guideline were identified regarding mattresses or overlays used in palliative end-of-life care. No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, or randomized controlled trials were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Overall Summary of Findings

One non-randomized study regarding mattresses used in palliative end-of-life care was identified; however, the results specific to patient satisfaction and comfort were not stated in the abstract.

Additionally, one evidence-based guideline was identified regarding mattresses used in palliative end-of-life care. The authors recommend that pressure-relieving mattresses be provided to patients at the end-of-life to maximize comfort and care.

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


Guidelines and Recommendations

Appendix — Further Information

Previous CADTH Reports


Randomized Controlled Trials – Study Protocol


Non-Randomized Studies

Alternative Population and Outcome


Alternative Population


Guidelines and Recommendations – Alternative Population

Review Articles