National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel (NPUAP) Staging System for Pressure Injuries (Updated 2016)

Deep Tissue Injury

Persistent non-blanchable deep red, maroon, purple discoloration
Intact or non-intact skin
May present as a blood filled blister
Pain and temperature change often precede skin color change
With appropriate interventions, may resolve without tissue loss. Otherwise, may quickly evolve into an open injury

Stage I

Persistent non-blanchable erythema (redness)
Intact skin
Blanchable erythema or changes in skin sensation, temperature or firmness may precede skin color change
With appropriate interventions, may resolve without tissue loss. Otherwise, may evolve into an open injury

Stage II

Loss of the epidermis with partial thickness loss of the dermis
Shallow open injury with a moist red/pink wound bed
Includes intact or open/ruptured serum-filled blister

Stage III

Loss of the epidermis and dermis. Subcutaneous fat may be visible but bone, tendon, cartilage, ligament, fascia or muscle are not exposed or directly palpable
Slough may be present but does not obscure the depth of tissue loss
May include undermining and tunneling
- Depth varies by anatomical location:
  - Shallow on bridge of the nose, ear, occiput and malleolus
  - Extremely deep in areas like the buttocks

**Stage IV**

- Loss of the epidermis and dermis with exposed (or directly palpable) bone, tendon, cartilage, ligament, fascia or muscle
- Slough or eschar may be present on some parts of the wound bed
- Often include undermining and tunneling
- The depth of a stage IV pressure injury varies by anatomical location

**Unstageable**

- Full thickness skin and tissue loss in which the base of the injury is obscured by slough and/or eschar
- Until enough slough and/or eschar is removed to expose the base of the wound, the true depth, and therefore stage, cannot be determined
- Stable (dry, adherent, intact without erythema or fluctuance) eschar on the heels serves as "the body's natural (biological) cover" and should not be removed

**Medical Device Related Pressure Injury**

- Pressure injury directly related to the use of a medical device, i.e. a blood pressure cuff, compression stockings, nasogastric tube, oxygen tubing, etc.
- Injury usually closely mirrors the shape of the offending device
- Staged using the NPUAP Staging System

**Mucosal Membrane Pressure Injury**

- Pressure injury on a mucous membrane, usually caused by a medical device
- Due to the anatomy of the tissue, these injuries cannot be staged using the NPUAP Staging System