

An interprofessional approach to pressure ulcer prevention: a knowledge and attitudes evaluation

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Background: Pressure ulcers (PUs) are a major burden to individuals, impacting their physical, mental and social wellbeing. While PU prevention is traditionally regarded as a nursing issue, an interprofessional approach has been promoted as best practice. However, little is known about current practice or the knowledge and attitudes of the wider interprofessional team (IPT).

Purpose: Pre-designed questionnaires were used to explore knowledge and attitudes with healthcare staff in the community.

Methods: Questionnaires were disseminated to all healthcare staff within a community healthcare Trust predominantly via an online tool. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results: The median values of all professional groups demonstrated satisfactory attitudes (>75%) and levels of knowledge (>60%) to PU prevention. However, there were differences within and between groups. Management staff demonstrated the most positive attitude to PU prevention (89%), followed by occupational therapists (OTs) and healthcare assistants (HCAs) (87%, IQR: 75%→89%). OTs demonstrated the highest scores for knowledge (69%, IQR: 62%→73%), while healthcare and rehabilitation assistants scored the lowest (58%, IQR: 58%-64%).

Conclusion: This study has demonstrated that the majority of healthcare staff in a UK community setting have satisfactory levels of knowledge and attitudes in relation to PU prevention overall. Nevertheless, there were some differences between groups, albeit non-significant. There were also differences between sub-themes of the questionnaires, indicating a greater focus of pressure ulcer treatment over prevention. While PU prevention is widely regarded to be a nursing issue, these findings provide some indication of the potential for an interprofessional approach.

Keywords: pressure ulcer, interprofessional, knowledge, attitudes, community, questionnaire

Introduction

A pressure ulcer (PU), also known as bed sore, pressure sore, pressure injury or decubitus ulcer, represents “localized injury to the skin and/or underlying tissue usually over a bony prominence, as a result of pressure, or pressure in combination with shear”.¹ PUs represent a major burden to populations across the world and have been attributed the highest disability index in a study estimating global burden of skin disease, when compared to other dermatological conditions.² PUs have a detrimental effect on quality of life, impacting on emotional, physical, mental and social wellbeing.³ The financial impact of PUs is also significant for healthcare organizations and society, with a systematic review by Demarre et al⁴ reporting treatment cost estimates of between €121 million and €2.59 billion on individual country annual healthcare budgets in six European countries, the USA and Canada.

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The overall prevalence of PUs shows wide variation between location and setting.¹ A recent addition to such figures includes medical device related PUs (MDRPUs), with one study highlighting that a third of all hospital-acquired PUs in US medical centers were of this origin.⁵

Nevertheless, some authors have reported a declining prevalence in the acute sector.^{6–8} One explanation for this may be an increasing emphasis on healthcare delivery in the community setting.⁹ Consequently, an increase in community-acquired PUs might be predicted, yet little data exists to demonstrate this conclusively.^{10,11} In the UK community setting, prevalence values have been reported to range between 11% - 13%.^{11,12}

An integrated team-based approach towards PU prevention has long been promoted as best practice,^{13–15} while conceptually interprofessional teamwork (IPT) is considered to foster interdependency amongst the team, optimizing patient care and improving staff satisfaction.¹⁶ However, the implementation of an interprofessional team approach to PU prevention is poorly understood. This may be partly explained through the variation in practice that currently exists in relation to individual professional groups and PUs. For example, while occupational therapists (OTs) and physiotherapists (PTs) in the US, Canada and Australia are widely involved in both treatment and prevention of PUs,^{17–21} involvement is more varied in other countries. Indeed, this is often limited to specific settings, such as spinal cord injury²² or certain aspects of practice, such as equipment provision, mobilization or with MDRPUs,^{23–25} and often in support of nursing practitioners. In many countries, nursing is the profession traditionally considered to be responsible for PU-related practice.²⁴ However, the provision of daily care in relation to PUs is often delegated to healthcare assistants.^{23,26–28}

Achieving an interprofessional team approach requires professional groups to have knowledge of the causative factors associated with PUs and strong attitudes towards prevention.^{29,30} While there is no specific single definition for knowledge,³¹ it has been considered to encompass three attributes: “experiential”, “skills” and “knowledge claims”.³² Indeed, knowledge is considered to be the foundation for healthcare practice³³ and a mediator of behavior.³⁴ Attitude has been defined as the “organization of interrelated beliefs”^{35,36} (p.1433) and has been significantly correlated with taking preventive action for PUs.²⁹

Both knowledge and attitudes have been explored previously, although predominantly within nursing.^{29,37–39} For other professional groups, such as doctors, occupational

therapists (OTs) and physiotherapists (PTs), knowledge has been reported to be dependent on setting and location.^{25,40} This was particularly demonstrated in a US study exploring the role of therapists in PU management for people with a spinal cord injury (SCI).⁴¹

There is limited consensus related to IPT attitudes. In examining nurses’ attitude to the IPT in PU practice, it was reported that although they were thankful for any assistance, they still adopted the traditional view that it was primarily their responsibility.²⁴ This compares with findings from a UK hospital study, reporting that OTs and PTs demonstrated a positive attitude to PU prevention, although, in practice, they did not consider it to represent their main priority.²⁵ By contrast, OTs in Canada reported greater satisfaction with higher referral rates for PUs as this enabled them to become more involved in a collaborative approach to practice.⁴² However, it was also highlighted that poor communication and tensions over role identity were barriers to IPT working.^{43,44}

While existing research provides some insight into current practice, no previous studies have explored the collective knowledge and attitudes across the interprofessional team in a community setting. Accordingly, this research aims to explore knowledge and attitudes amongst the IPT towards PU prevention

Material and methods

Study design

A quantitative methodology was adopted using questionnaires as part of a larger multiphase mixed methods design. A convenience sample of healthcare professionals were approached to establish the knowledge and attitudes of a variety of professional groups across the community setting.

Ethical considerations

Approval was gained from the University of Southampton School of Health Sciences Ethics committee (FoHS-ETHICS-10973/20097) and the research and development team in the community location.

Study population

The study sample comprised a variety of both registered and unregistered professional groups, predominantly from one community NHS Trust, including nurses, physiotherapists (PTs), occupational therapists (OTs), podiatrists, healthcare and rehabilitation assistants (HCAs, RAs), other allied health

professionals, including speech and language therapists and associate practitioners, and management staff. The community setting in this context included both the provision of healthcare in a patient's home and in community hospitals. Community hospitals provide a variety of functions in the UK National Health Service (NHS), including inpatient and outpatient services, surgery, minor injury units and can be used by more than one healthcare organization.⁴⁵ For this study, community hospital participants worked within inpatient and outpatient settings. The community organization where data were collected was split into three divisions – physical health, mental health and learning disability. A link to the questionnaires was sent out widely within each division. Consent was implied through completion of the questionnaires. Data were collected in January 2015.

Data collection

Two questionnaires were administered online and in paper form to explore knowledge and attitudes to PU prevention.^{33,35} The link to the online questionnaire was sent out by senior managers, area lead clinicians and tissue viability nurses (TVNs), therefore limiting the ability to collect response rate data. A series of demographic questions were included, comprising age, gender, role, clinical years' experience post registration and division of work.

Knowledge and attitudes questionnaires

The knowledge assessment tool (PUKAT) has 26-items, separated into six categories that represent different areas of knowledge in PU practice (Table 1) and has been

demonstrated to have construct validity and good overall internal consistency with nurses (Cronbach's α : 0.77).³³

The attitude to pressure ulcer prevention questionnaire (APUP) represents a 13-item tool with content that encompasses five categories (Table 1) developed through literature review and double Delphi methodology.³⁵ The APUP has been demonstrated with a nursing cohort to have adequate validity (CVI: 0.87–1.00), while also being reliable (Cronbach's α : 0.79, ICC: 0.88 (95% CI=0.84–0.91, $p<0.001$)).³⁵ While both questionnaires were designed for nurses, they included topics that are relevant to the wider IPT. A small qualitative pilot was undertaken with a representative sample of staff ($n=13$) to ensure understanding and acceptability with a wider professional audience. Results indicated that the tools were generally coherent, even though the APUP tool used both positively and negatively worded items and lacked a neutral response as part of the Likert scale.

Data analysis

Questionnaire results were included in the analysis if participants completed either or both of the questionnaires in their entirety. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics (median, IQR, Kruskal-Wallis test). The scores were summed and converted to percentage values, with thresholds of 60% for knowledge and 75% for attitudes deemed satisfactory scores.^{33,35} Data are presented as median scores from the total possible score for the relevant questionnaire followed by the equivalent percentage score.

Results

In total, 119 participants answered the PUKAT questionnaire and 151 participants answering the APUP questionnaire. Of those who answered the APUP questionnaire 92% ($n=139$) were female, while 55% of participants were aged between 45 and 64 years of age. 144 participants opted to answer further demographics questions, with 62% indicating that they had more than 10 years' clinical experience. Over 69% of participants ($n=105$) indicated that they worked in the physical health clinical area, while approximately 16% were based in the learning disability sector. The remaining participants were from the mental health division or did not provide a response to this question. The six podiatrists who indicated "Other" were from a different local Trust. Table 2 provides a breakdown of clinical years' experience and area of work for participants from both questionnaires.

Table 1 PUKAT and APUP categories.

PU Knowledge assessment tool categories	Attitudes to PU prevention questionnaire categories
Aetiology and development	Personal competency to prevent PUs
Classification and observation	Priority of PU prevention
Risk assessment	Impact of PUs
Nutrition	Responsibility in PU prevention
Preventive measures to reduce amount of pressure and shear	Confidence in the effectiveness of prevention
Preventive measures to reduce duration of pressure and shear	

Abbreviations: PU, Pressure ulcer; PUKAT, Pressure Ulcer Knowledge Assessment Tool; APUP, Attitudes to Pressure Ulcer Prevention tool.

Table 2 Demographics data by questionnaire and profession

APUP		Nurse		HCA		Physio		OT		Podiatrist		Other AHP		Rehab Asst		Management	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Clinical experience (years)	0–4 years	13	15.8%	6	46.2%	4	44.4%	3	17.7%	2	18.2%	1	50.0%	3	50.0%	0	0.0%
	5–9 years	14	17.1%	2	15.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%
	10–19 years	15	18.3%	5	38.5%	2	22.2%	10	58.8%	6	54.5%	1	50.0%	2	33.3%	4	100.0%
	20+ years	40	48.8%	0	0.0%	3	33.3%	4	23.5%	2	18.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Health	62	79.5%	13	100.0%	6	66.7%	13	76.5%	3	33.3%	2	50.0%	5	83.3%	1	33.3%
In which NHS division do you work	Learning Disability	13	16.7%	0	0.0%	3	33.3%	3	17.6%	0	0.0%	2	50.0%	1	16.7%	2	66.7%
	Other	3	3.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	5.9%	6	66.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Health	15	21.7%	3	33.3%	3	21.4%	2	15.4%	1	14.3%	1	50.0%	3	60.0%	0	0.0%
	Learning Disability	9	13.0%	1	11.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Other	13	18.8%	5	55.6%	10	71.4%	10	76.9%	4	57.1%	1	50.0%	2	40.0%	0	0.0%
PUKAT	0–4 years	32	46.4%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	7.7%	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	5–9 years	50	79.4%	8	100.0%	6	75.0%	11	78.6%	2	50.0%	2	50.0%	4	80.0%	0	0.0%
	10–19 years	8	12.7%	0	0.0%	2	25.0%	1	7.1%	2	50.0%	2	50.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%
	20+ years	5	7.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	7.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Health	15	21.7%	3	33.3%	3	21.4%	2	15.4%	1	14.3%	1	50.0%	3	60.0%	0	0.0%
In which NHS division do you work	Learning Disability	9	13.0%	1	11.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Other	13	18.8%	5	55.6%	10	71.4%	10	76.9%	4	57.1%	1	50.0%	2	40.0%	0	0.0%
	Health	32	46.4%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	7.7%	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Learning Disability	50	79.4%	8	100.0%	6	75.0%	11	78.6%	2	50.0%	2	50.0%	4	80.0%	0	0.0%
	Other	8	12.7%	0	0.0%	2	25.0%	1	7.1%	2	50.0%	2	50.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%

Abbreviations: PUKAT; Pressure Ulcer Knowledge Assessment Tool; APUP; Attitudes to Pressure Ulcer Prevention tool; HCA; Healthcare Assistant; OT; Occupational Therapist; AHP; Allied Health Professional; NHS; National Health Service.

Knowledge

The overall median score achieved across the IPT for the knowledge questionnaire (PUKAT) was 17/26 (65%, IQR: 58% - 79%), representing an above satisfactory level (>60%).³³ However, 26% (n=31) of participants did not reach this satisfactory threshold for knowledge. Descriptive statistics show variation between professional groups, with OTs demonstrating the highest score of 18/26 (69%, 65%–73%), and HCAs and RAs achieved the lowest score of 15/26 (58%, 52%–67%) (Table 3). Nevertheless, when these data were collated into four groups, comprising allied health professionals (AHP), RAs, nurses and HCAs, no statistical difference was evident (χ^2 (3) = 7.179, $p=0.066$). However, this does show a trend towards AHPs having greater knowledge than their nursing colleagues, with mean rank knowledge scores of 66 and 62, respectively.

Overall, participants with more than 20 years' clinical experience demonstrated the highest knowledge scores, although this trend was not significant ($p=0.28$). Risk assessment and nutrition represented the highest scoring categories, with registered healthcare staff achieving a median score of 100%, while HCAs and RAs had lower scores (2/3, 67%). The results of the etiology and development sub-theme demonstrated that OTs and PTs scored more highly than nursing, although this was not found to be statistically significant ($p=0.433$).

Knowledge of preventive measures was generally poor, with a lower than satisfactory overall median score of 6/12 (50%), and no individual professional group achieving a median score (>60%).

Table 3 Summary of the PUKAT by profession (maximum score of 26) (other AHPs included speech and language therapists and associate practitioners)

Total PUKAT	Median	IQR
Nurse n=71	17	15.0→18.5
HCA n=10	15.5	15.0→16.8
Physio n=8	17.5	16.8→18.5
OT n=13	18	17.0→19.0
Podiatrist n=7	17	15.5→18.0
Other AHP n=4	16	15.8→16.3
Rehab Assistant n=6	15	13.5→17.3
AHP (PT, OT, POD, Other AHP, RA) n=38	17	16→18

Abbreviations: PUKAT, Pressure Ulcer Knowledge Assessment Tool; AHP, Allied Health Professional; IQR, Interquartile range; HCA, Healthcare Assistant; OT, Occupational Therapist; PT, Physiotherapist; RA, Rehabilitation Assistant; PO, Podiatrist.

Close examination of the answers to specific questions revealed that although all professions achieved satisfactory level scores (>60%) for the etiology and development category, 58% of participants could not identify that a lack of tissue oxygen was a major cause of PU development (Figure 1).

Attitudes

The overall median attitude score was 43/52 (83%, IQR 75%–88%), representing an above satisfactory level (>75%).³⁵ However, 21% (n=31) of participants did not demonstrate this level. The descriptive statistics also demonstrate distinct differences between professional groups (Table 4). Management staff (n=4) demonstrated the most positive attitude with a score of 46/52 (89%), while PTs and rehabilitation assistants (RAs) scored the lowest with a median of 41/52 (79%, IQR: 71%–88%). There was a trend for nursing clinicians to have a more positive attitude than AHPs, although this difference between professional groups was not significant ($p>0.05$). Years of experience was associated with attitudes towards PU prevention, with nurses, AHPs and RAs with less than 2 years' experience having the lowest attitude score (73%–75%) relative to more experienced groups.

Priority of PU prevention represented the highest scoring category overall (11/12, 92%). There were differences between groups with nurses, OTs and HCAs feeling more responsible (10.5/12, 87.5%) than PTs, podiatrists and RAs (9/12, 75%). However, even within the nursing and OT cohorts, there was considerable variability in perceived responsibility (Figure 2).

Nursing staff demonstrated the highest median score for the personal competency category (10/12, 83%), although there was a large range in the scores (50%–100%). PTs, OTs, podiatrists, RAs and other AHPs demonstrated the lowest perceived competency values (9/12, 75%). Indeed, some participants were not confident in the effectiveness of PU prevention and demonstrated a belief that PUs are not preventable in high-risk patients. These views were expressed by over 32% of nurses, 11% of OTs and over 62% of HCAs/RAs, as indicated in Figure 3.

Discussion

This is the first study to explore knowledge and attitudes to PU prevention with a variety of professional groups in a UK community setting. The descriptive results demonstrate an overall satisfactory level of knowledge and

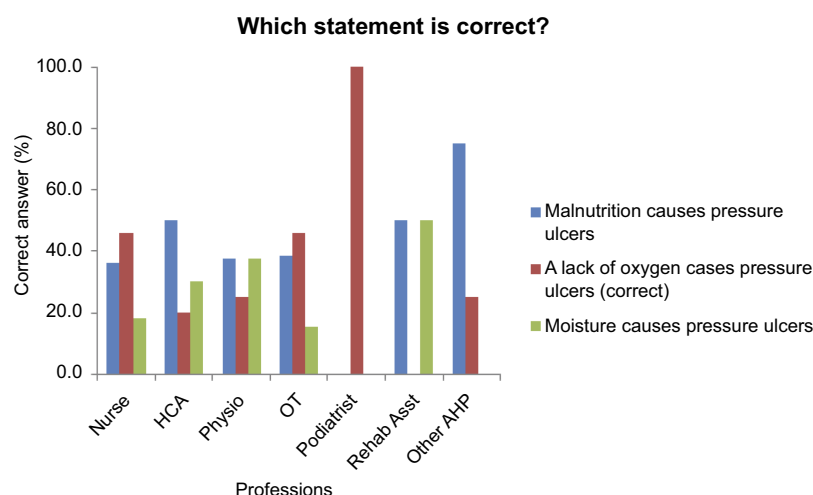


Figure 1 Results from PUKAT etiology and development category: Cause of pressure ulcers, by professional group.

Abbreviations: HCA, Healthcare Assistant; OT, Occupational Therapist; AHP, Allied Health Professional; PUKAT, Pressure Ulcer Knowledge Assessment Tool.

Table 4 Summary of the APUP by profession (maximum score of 52)

Total APUP	Median	IQR
Nurse n=84	44	39.0→47.0
HCA n=15	45	39.0→46.0
Physio n=9	41	37.0→46.0
OT n=17	45	39.0→46.5
Podiatrist n=11	43	38.0→45.0
Other AHP n=4	42	35.8→43.8
Rehab Assistant n=7	41	41.0→44.0
AHP (PT, OT, POD, Other AHP, RA) n=48	42.5	38.8→45.3
Management n=4	46	*

Notes: *IQR is not shown for the management group due to the small number of participants.

Abbreviations: APUP, Attitudes to Pressure Ulcer Prevention tool; IQR, Interquartile range; HCA, Healthcare Assistant; OT, Occupational Therapist; AHP, Allied Health Professional; PT, Physiotherapist; RA, Rehabilitation Assistant; PO, Podiatrist.

attitudes across healthcare staff in the community, although unregistered staff, such as HCAs and RAs, did not achieve satisfactory levels of knowledge.

The overall median score for knowledge (65%) represented a higher result than other studies that used the same assessment tool with nurses and nursing assistants. As an example, mean values of 49.6% and 58.9% were reported in Belgium²⁹ and Sweden,⁴⁶ respectively. As PU practice is traditionally perceived to be the domain of the nursing profession^{14,24} it might be predicted that their knowledge would be higher than other professions. However, although small variations were seen between individual professions, overall comparison between nurses and AHPs indicated that they held similar levels of knowledge. The median scores for PTs and OTs in this study (67%–69%) are similar to those

reported by Worsley and colleagues²⁵ in an acute setting with the same professions (69%). While these results may indicate a response bias in terms of only capturing interested AHPs, they may also collectively increase confidence that AHPs can play an active role in PU prevention. In doing so, professional stereotyping, considered to be an unfavorable perspective leading to insufficient communication between professional groups,⁴⁷ may be reduced and interprofessional teamwork promoted.⁴⁸

Results from the knowledge categories appear to highlight a greater focus on treatment as opposed to prevention of PUs, with etiology and classification category scores being higher than preventative measures. Indeed, Panagiotopoulou and Kerr⁴⁹ and Worsley et al²⁵ both reported similar findings, with preventive strategies representing the lowest scoring category for nurses and OTs/PTs, respectively. Although individual healthcare staff undertook the questionnaires, the focus on treatment over prevention may reflect organizational culture, driven by policy recommendations. Indeed, a recent policy document review highlighted a greater focus on treatment than prevention.⁵⁰ Given that wound care is currently defined as a nursing responsibility,³ this could impact on interprofessional teamwork.^{51,52}

Although etiology and development were shown to be one of the highest scoring categories, 58% of participants could not identify that a lack of tissue oxygen was a major cause of PU development (Figure 1). Similar findings were also reported in previous studies involving nurses.^{29,46} Indeed, Gunningberg et al⁴⁶ suggests that there is confusion about the difference between the

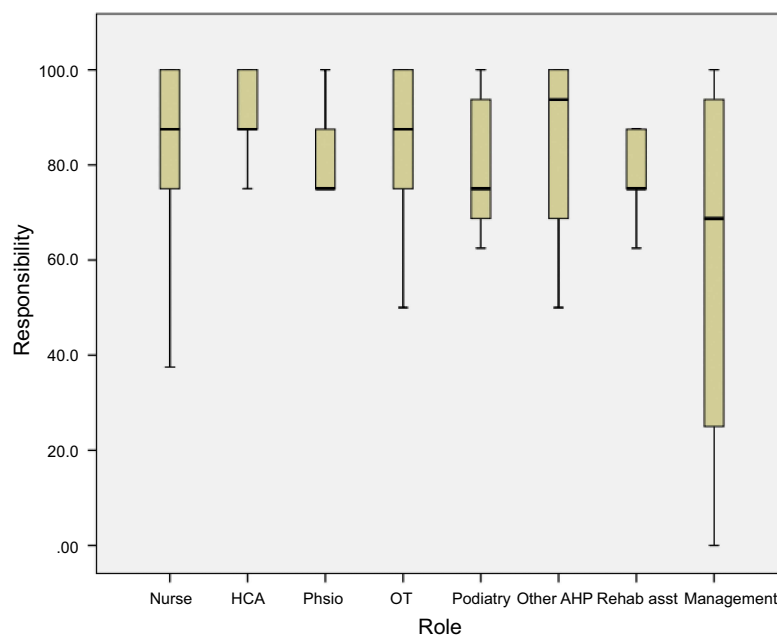


Figure 2 APUP responsibility category, by professional groups, representing percentage correct answers (median/IQR).

Abbreviations: HCA, Healthcare Assistant; OT, Occupational Therapist; AHP, Allied Health Professional; APUP, Attitudes to Pressure Ulcer Prevention tool; IQR, Interquartile range.

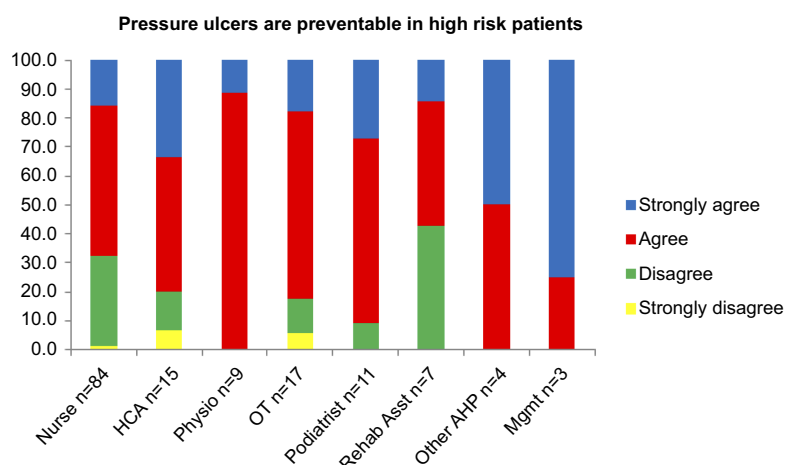


Figure 3 Results from APUP statement "Pressure ulcers are preventable in high risk patients", by professional group, representing percentage scores for the four-item Likert scale.

Abbreviations: HCA, Healthcare Assistant; OT, Occupational Therapist; AHP, Allied Health Professional; APUP, Attitudes to Pressure Ulcer Prevention tool.

terms "cause" and "risk factors", with participants defining either malnutrition or moisture as a causative factor in PU development. The data from the current study demonstrated that podiatrists were the only professional group that identified tissue oxygen as the primary etiology (100% correct answers).

The overall median score for attitudes (83%) was similar to other studies that used the same questionnaire. For example, Beeckman et al²⁹ reported a mean score of 71%

with a sample of nurses and tissue viability nurses in Belgium, while in Sweden and Turkey, nurses demonstrated higher mean scores of 89% and 84%, respectively.^{53,54} The attitude score of the community nurses in the current study represented a median score of 85%, while three other professional groups demonstrated a more positive attitude, including management staff (89%) and OTs/HCA (87%). These scores were higher than those reported for AHPs in a recent UK hospital

based study using the same tool (median: 81%).²⁵ The positive attitude scores demonstrated by the management staff may reflect their level of experience (10–19 years). A UK study including nurse managers reported similar findings, where greater experience lead to higher perceptions of value in relation to PU prevention.⁵⁵ However, it is also possible that their attitude scores relate to a particular interest in this area of practice, a desire to reduce adverse events or an awareness of targets in relation to the incidence of PUs.

A less positive attitude was associated with lower levels of experience for nurses, AHPs and RAs. Samuriwo⁵⁵ reported similar findings through semi-structured interviews with nurses, nurse managers and student nurses, finding that values in relation to PU prevention changed based on the experience of working with someone with a PU. HCAs demonstrated a positive attitude to PU prevention in the current study. However, their knowledge scores were among the lowest of all staffing groups (59.6%). This should represent a concern for current practice, as others have previously indicated that PU-related tasks are often delegated to HCAs.^{23,27}

At the time of data collection, PU related training for staff was not mandatory and although courses were available; this relied heavily on community teams having the capacity to support staff to attend. Ensuring the appropriate cover to do so may have been a challenge, given the previously reported gaps in both the nursing and AHP community workforce.^{56,57} Given that PUs are traditionally viewed as a nursing domain, it is possible that fewer AHPs attended this training, which may have influenced both the uptake of the questionnaires and the results. Indeed, while AHPs collectively demonstrated the same knowledge as nurses in this study, they may only represent an interested sub-set of these professional groups.

Limitations

This study was conducted in a community NHS Trust with a relatively small sample of healthcare staff. This represents a limitation in terms of the analysis and generalizability of the results. However, the proportion of different staff was broadly representative of the clinical setting and the range of different professional disciplines can be considered a strength. While validation of the knowledge and attitudes assessment tools has only been undertaken with nurses,^{33,35} the content was considered to be relevant for the wider IPT, confirmed by the pilot

study. A greater number of participants undertook the attitudes questionnaire (n=151), than the knowledge questionnaire (n=119). While these were administered as a single online questionnaire, the attitudes section came first, so any participants who were limited by time constraints may have neglected the knowledge section. However, it is also possible that the knowledge-based questions were perceived to be more difficult to answer, creating bias in the data.

Clinical implications

PU prevention is considered to be a priority in clinical practice, yet participants demonstrated a lack of perceived personal competency or confidence in effective prevention. It is, therefore, unsurprising that a proportion of participants considered that PUs were not preventable in high risk patients. Consequently, in light of the deficit in preventive knowledge, an associated impact on the provision of preventive measures in the community could be anticipated. However, this study has shown that knowledge and attitudes in the wider IPT can provide the basis for improved practice by integrating multifaceted knowledge from across professional groups.⁵⁸ Indeed, interventions for preventing PUs have been linked to the role of a variety of healthcare professionals.⁴¹ However, more research is needed to establish collaborative practice and interdependence between professions.⁵⁹

Conclusion

The findings of this study demonstrate that while PU prevention is considered to be the domain of the nurse, other professional groups exhibited both a strong knowledge and positive attitude toward this clinical challenge. These findings illustrate the potential for an interprofessional approach that utilizes knowledge from across the healthcare team to provide effective prevention. However, a lack of confidence or perceived competency in this area of practice may be limiting collaborative efforts. Future research should use qualitative methods with individual and interprofessional groups to provide further insight and context to these results.

Abbreviation list

PU, Pressure ulcer; IPT, Interprofessional team; IQR, Interquartile range; OT, Occupational Therapist; PT, Physiotherapist; HCA, Healthcare Assistant; SCI, Spinal Cord Injury; RA, Rehabilitation Assistant; TVN, Tissue

Viability Nurse; APUP, Attitudes to Pressure Ulcer Prevention tool; PUKAT, Pressure Ulcer Knowledge Assessment Tool; CVI, Content Validity Index; CI, Confidence Interval; AHP, Allied Health Professional; NHS, National Health Service.

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Disclosure

Mr Paul Clarkson was a clinician in Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust where data collection took place. Professor Lisette Schoonhoven received fees as a consultant in the Scientific Advisory Board from 3M outside the submitted work. The authors report no other conflicts of interest in this work.

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