

Staging Pressure Ulcers

Pressure ulcers range in severity from Stage 1 to Stage 4.

* Never downstage a pressure ulcer! *



Stage 1

Intact skin characterized by
Non-blanchable erythema
Purplish area
Hardened area
Typically associated over bony
prominences

Stage 2

Partial thickness skin loss involving
epidermis or dermis
Fluid Filled Blister
Abrasion
Shallow Crater

Stage 3

Full Thickness Skin Loss
Involving Damage or Necrosis of
Subcutaneous fat
Damage May Extend Down to but
NOT Through Underlying Fascia
*Eschar & Slough are only found in
Stage III or Stage IV Pressure
Ulcers*

Stage 4

Full-thickness skin loss with
extensive destruction, tissue
necrosis or damage to:
Muscle
Bone
Tendons, ligaments,
joint capsules