

For the Record – Press Statements

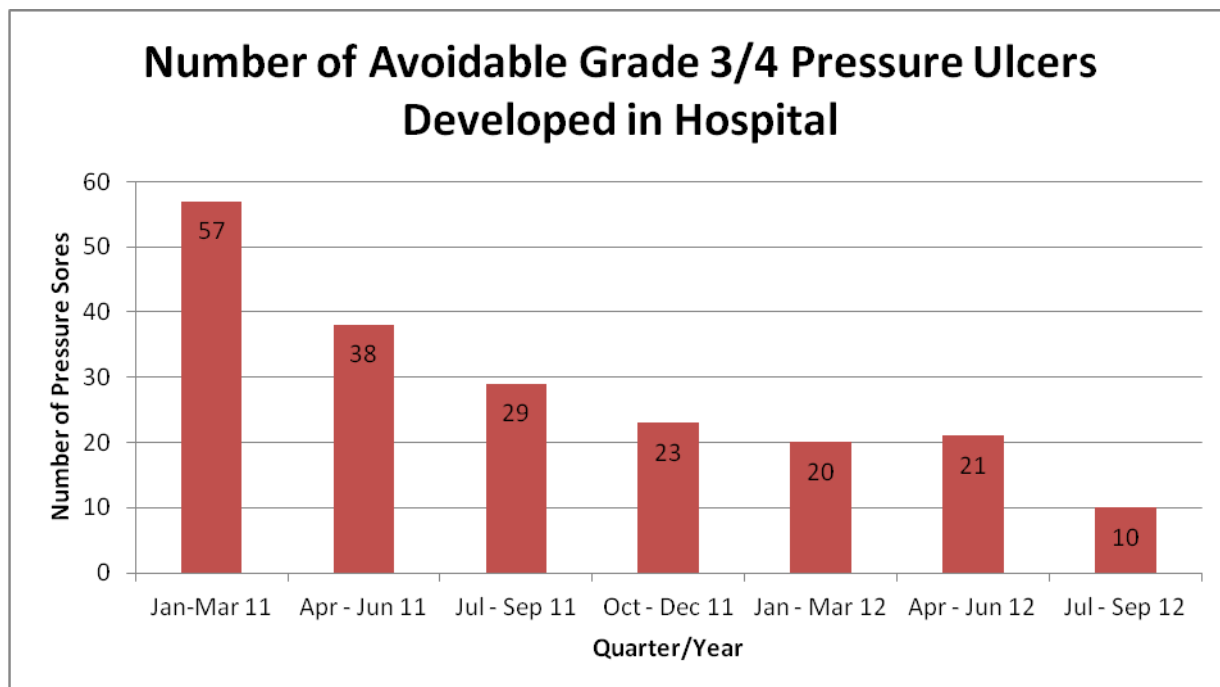
Publication	BBC Inside Out
Date of broadcast	Monday 21 st January 2013
Reporter	Mary Rhodes
Headline	N/A
First paragraph/s of broadcast	More than 40 per cent of serious incidents recorded at English hospitals last year were down to pressure ulcers, also known as bed sores...
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	Last year 192 severe bed sores were recorded under the care of The Dudley Group NHS Trust. Half occurred at Russells Hall Hospital and half in the community.
Press enquiry	BBC Inside Out's Freedom of Information request on Serious Untoward Incidents in health trusts revealed The Dudley Group had reported the most number of pressure ulcers in England between 1 st October 2011 and 30 th November 2012. Could our chief executive please take part in the programme?
Also issued to:	BBC WM Express and Star Dudley news
Trust response	
<p>The Dudley Group is committed to providing the very best possible care for our patients and a zero tolerance approach to pressure ulcers is one of our top safety priorities. We take all serious untoward incidents seriously and use a number of sources to assure ourselves of the quality of our care.</p> <p>The National Patient Safety Agency, which monitors Trusts' reporting of incidents, state that organisations that report more incidents usually have better and more effective safety cultures. The Dudley Group subscribe to this view and are consistently in the highest group of medium acute trusts for reporting of incidents. We believe that this is important to ensure we promote an honest and open culture amongst our staff to learn and, therefore, improve patient safety going forward.</p> <p>One of the ways we assure ourselves and our patients that we put their safety and care at the heart of nursing is by investigating every single serious untoward incident, including new pressure ulcers that a patient develops while in hospital, in</p>	

their own home or in a residential home while under the care of the Trust.

Pressure ulcers do account for the majority of our serious untoward incidents because it is both a Dudley Group and national priority to reduce the number of pressure ulcers patients develop.

We introduced a rigorous new system of checking pressure ulcers in January 2011 and included both avoidable and unavoidable pressure ulcers in our numbers. We expected to see a rise in the numbers of reported pressure ulcers by our nursing teams. Now that our reporting is so robust, and pressure ulcer management is to a high quality in every ward with every nurse, we are seeing the kinds of reductions we had hoped for.

The graph below shows the steady reduction of grade three and four pressure ulcers from January 2011 to September 2012



Pressure ulcers are graded from one to four depending on the depth of tissue damage. They can be graded differently depending on the grading tool nurses use.

Every nurse in our Trust uses the recognised European tool to help them grade the severity of the pressure ulcer but it always comes down to their individual judgement. However, we have educated our staff to over grade, rather than under grade, to ensure our patients receive the best possible care.

If there is uncertainty as to the depth of the tissue damage, we encourage our staff to grade up rather than down – and we make no apologies for this: we grade pressure

ulcers to care for patients, and not to compare ourselves to other Trusts.

The Trust integrated with Dudley Adult Community Services in 2011 and our total number of pressure ulcers increased because they included patients who may have developed them in residential homes or in their own homes.

In January to March 2012 we recorded 33 pressure ulcers developed in the community. This decreased to six from April to June and five from July to September 2012.

We have a dedicated pressure ulcer team leading a robust pressure ulcer prevention and management plan which ensures every nurse on every ward knows the importance of reducing pressure ulcers and is being trained in what to do to prevent and treat them.

Our high profile campaign Love Your Skin, in which our directors modelled for an awareness poster campaign, put our aim to have zero pressure ulcers at the forefront of everybody's minds.

This was followed by a new campaign linked to the summer Olympics in which we challenged all our ward teams to be free of pressure ulcers for 50 consecutive days. The '50 Day Dash' was so successful, we currently have nine wards who have not recorded a new pressure ulcer for 50 days and six of those have not reported a pressure ulcer for more than 100 days.

- Every ward has a pressure ulcer nurse champion who takes responsibility for leading this work and they are supported by a specialist team.
- Every patient at risk is monitored using a structured approach and the results of that monitoring are recorded.
- Every nurse checks they are using the most appropriate equipment to relieve pressure from the affected area.
- Every patient with a pressure ulcer is checked every two hours and repositioned.
- Senior nursing staff and matrons monitor the work of the ward teams.