

1

What is a Body Map?

A body map is a tool used to record visual damage to skin integrity.

The Body Map should accurately reflect the type, presentation and position of any visible damage to skin integrity at the point of a patient admission, during the hospital stay/ whilst in the receipt of care or at a point of discharge from a facility.

The Body Map should accompany the individual during their progression through the Health and Care System.



Use of Body Maps in Safeguarding



2

The importance of body maps in Safeguarding

There have been a number of Safeguarding Reports raising concerns following discharge from hospital with regard to the presence of pressure and or moisture damage, bruising or injuries that those who took over care were not made aware of, or given the rationale for.

In addition to enabling effective communication, the body map aids professionals with decision-making and evaluating evidence when there is a safeguarding concern raised.

7

Professional Responsibilities

The Social Services and Well Being Act (Wales) 2014 places a statutory duty on all Health Board staff to report to the Local Authority where it is suspected, or known, that an adult is at risk of abuse or neglect.

Body maps form an essential part of a safeguarding report, both the body map contained within the MARF and any completed within clinical documentation.

Healthcare professionals also have responsibilities under their respective professional codes of conduct to raise concerns when there is risk or harm.

3

Benefits of using a body map

They can be utilised like a journal to record all relevant details. Body maps can be shared with multidisciplinary/multiagency professionals as an essential part of information-sharing regarding individuals. Body maps evidence details at an identified point in time.

Body maps can be used to inform Safeguarding enquiries, Multi Agency forums and Adult/ Child practice reviews.

6

Reporting to Safeguarding

A safeguarding report must be generated where there is reasonable cause to suspect that the damage to skin integrity is as a result of abuse or neglect and the individual is a child, or an adult who has care and support needs and is unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect.

If a practitioner is unsure if an incident requires reporting to Safeguarding, use the Safeguarding Screening tool to guide and evidence decision making. Upload the screening tool to the relevant DATIX to ensure organisational memory.

5

Responding and Recording

Any unexplained damage to skin integrity should be discussed with the individual, and family/carers.

The Body map is an adjunct to good record keeping and does not replace the need to document in the correct records and escalate as appropriate.

In addition to nursing and medical records, appropriate recording may include Datix Incident Reporting, Wound Care Plans, Care Bundles, Pressure Ulcer/Moisture Damage passport, Hand Over or Discharge Documentation etc.

4

Examples of use

- Pressure and Moisture Damage
- Markings from invasive devices and or procedures
- Falls
- Markings following restrictive practices - Assault
- Medication induced Bruising
- Patient to patient incidences
- Self-Harm
- Miscellaneous