

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION -
LONG-TERM CARE QUALITY INDICATOR

**Worsened Pressure
Ulcer in Long-Term Care**

What this means:

This indicator measures the percentage of long-term care residents with a stage 2 to 4 pressure ulcer that worsened. A pressure ulcer is an injury to the skin, usually over a bony area, like elbows, heels or hips. They are caused by pressure in the area, like from being in one position over a period of time (e.g., lying or sitting), and can be worse because of friction. Stage 2 to 4 ulcers range from blisters to loss of skin and the tissue below. Residents with ulcers are at a greater risk of pain and infection. Some ulcers may become worse or can't heal because of an underlying medical condition or not enough blood circulation to the area. Others may become worse because the resident is not following the needed treatment (like turning regularly or repositioning).

Alberta results:

In 2014/15, 3.1% of long-term care residents in Alberta had a worsened stage 2 to 4 pressure ulcer. This is similar to the previous three years, and slightly higher than 2010/11.

Steps for continued improvement:

Alberta Health Services has specialized teams available to help providers manage pressure ulcers, including pain control and making residents more comfortable. The teams also provide education for facility staff.

For more information:

www.health.alberta.ca/services/continuing-care-CIHI-RAI.html

