

The Keys To Heel Pressure Ulcer Prevention

A recent series of surveys¹ covering a variety of wound care professionals found conclusively that the keys to preventing heel pressure ulcers in patients are:

- an established and reliable heel pressure ulcer prevention protocol
- a proven, heel off-loading device for pressure ulcer relief

With the annual cost of treating nosocomial pressure ulcers estimate to be \$2.2 to \$3.6 billion per year², there is an increased emphasis on preventing hospital-acquired pressure ulcers, making this information both timely and critical.

To view the data from this survey, or the summaries of the aforementioned studies, please visit our Resource Center at www.heelift.com.



A professional off-loading device like Heelift® Suspension Boot plays a key role in heel pressure ulcer prevention.

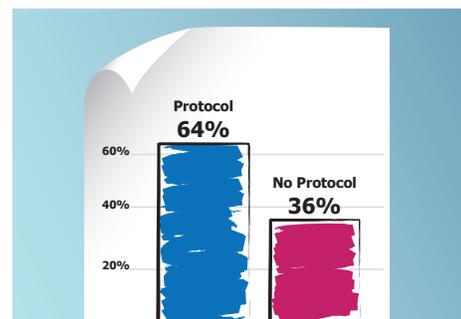


THE SURVEYS REVEALED:

• Pressure Ulcer Protocols Used At Most Facilities

Almost 2/3 of the 334 respondents reported that they have a formal heel pressure ulcer protocol at their facility.

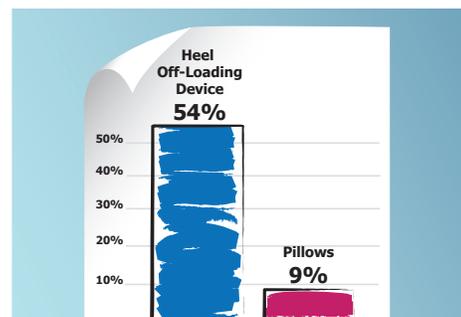
- 64% Have a formal protocol
- 36% Do NOT have a formal protocol



• Heel Off-Loading Device Preferred 6-1 Over Pillows

Of those respondents whose facilities have a formal heel pressure ulcer protocol, 54% use a heel off-loading device like Heelift®, while only 9% use pillows.

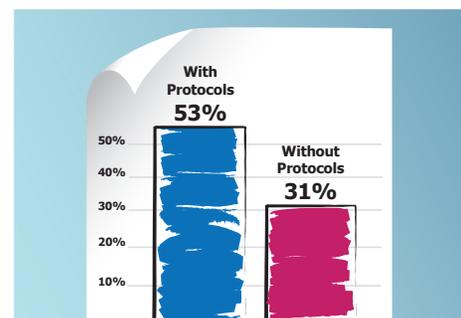
- 54% Use a heel off-loading device
- 9% Use pillows



• Pressure Ulcer Protocols 70% More Effective

Of those respondents whose facilities have a formal heel pressure ulcer protocol, 53% saw no increase in pressure ulcers, while among those without a protocol, only 31% saw no increase.

- 53% With formal protocol saw no pressure ulcer increase
- 31% Without formal protocol saw no pressure ulcer increase



Of those respondents who reported NO INCREASE in heel pressure ulcers in their facility, 72% used a heel pressure ulcer prevention protocol. This once again proves the importance of using a professional heel off-loading device like Heelift® Suspension Boot within the framework of a formal pressure ulcer protocol.

In Conclusion, your own responses confirmed what recent clinical studies³ have shown: an effective heel pressure ulcer prevention protocol, together with a reliable heel off-loading device like Heelift® Suspension Boot, can aid in the prevention of dangerous and expensive heel pressure ulcers.

Complete survey results and cited clinical studies available at our Resource Center at www.heelift.com.

¹ Surveys were completed by 334 registered attendees of three separate wound care conferences throughout 2008. Respondents worked in a variety of facility types including hospitals, wound care clinics, and nursing homes.
² Langemo D, Thompson P, et al. Heel Pressure Ulcers: Stand Guard. *Advances in Skin & Wound Care*, 21(6):282-92, June 2008.
³ McInerney J. Reducing Hospital-Acquired Pressure Ulcer Prevalence Through a Focused Prevention Program. *Advances in Skin & Wound Care*, 21(2): 75-8, February 2008.



1316 Sherman Ave.
Evanston, IL 60201
800.254.5438 • 847.328.9541
FAX: 847.328.9561
www.heelift.com