

Stirling's Pressure Ulcer Severity Scale

Adapted from Pedley GE. Comparison of Pressure Ulcer Grading Scales: a study of clinical utility and inter-rater reliability, International Journal of Nursing Studies, 41 (2): 129-140, 2004; Appendix A and Appendix B. Used with permission from Elsevier Publishing.

The 2-digit Stirling Scale is rated out of 4 stages with subratings in each stage.

The 1-digit Stirling Scale is simply the 4 stages with no subratings.

Stage 0: No clinical evidence of a pressure sore.

0.1 Normal appearance, intact skin

0.2 Healed with scarring

0.3 Tissue damage, but not assessed as a pressure sore.

Stage 1: Discoloration of intact skin (Light finger pressure applied to the site does not alter the discoloration).

1.1 Non-blanchable erythema with increased local heat.

1.2 Blue/purple/black discoloration. The sore is at least stage 1.

Stage 2: Partial-thickness skin loss or damage involving epidermis and/or dermis.

2.1 Blister.

2.2 Abrasion.

2.3 Shallow ulcer, without undermining of adjacent tissue.

2.4 Any of these with underlying blue/purple/black discoloration or induration.

The sore is at least stage 2.

Stage 3: Full-thickness skin loss involving damage or necrosis of subcutaneous tissue but not extending to underlying bone, tendon or joint capsule.

3.1 Crater, without undermining of adjacent tissue.

3.2 Crater with undermining of adjacent tissue.

3.3 Sinus, the full extent of which is unknown.

3.4 Full-thickness skin loss but wound bed covered with necrotic tissue (hard or leathery black/brown tissue or softer yellow/cream/grey slough) which masks the true extent of tissue damage. The sore is at least stage 3. Until debrided it is not possible to observe whether damage extends into muscle or involves damage to bone or supporting structures.

Stage 4: Full-thickness skin loss with extensive destruction and tissue necrosis extending to underlying bone, tendon or joint capsule.

4.1 Visible exposure of bone, tendon or capsule.

4.2 Sinus assessed as extending to bone, tendon or capsule.

Stirling's Pressure Ulcer Severity Scale Worksheet:

Patient Name: _____ Clinician name: _____

Date: _____

Location of pressure sore on body:	Rating:

Date: _____

Location of pressure sore on body:	Rating:

Date: _____

Location of pressure sore on body:	Rating:

Date: _____

Location of pressure sore on body:	Rating:

Date: _____

Location of pressure sore on body:	Rating: