

SUBJECT: PHOTOGRAPHING PRESSURE ULCERS/ SUSPECTED PHYSICAL ABUSE	REFERENCE #10005
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POLICY:

- A photograph shall be taken of all pressure ulcers on admission to _____ Hospital or if one develops in this facility for medication treatment.
- The tenets of this policy are understood to include the identification, diagnosis and treatment of the patient with documented pressure ulcer, and of the patient and/or incidents of actual or suspected physical abuse, where visual documentation in the form of a photograph is necessary to:
 - In the event of identified pressure ulcer, objectively define an area of ulceration and to provide a comparative report during treatment
 - In incidents of actual or suspected physical abuse, objectively define and document, pursuant to state and local laws and regulations, areas of physical injury
- The authorized staff member will measure pressure ulcer and/or physical injury and document size:
 - Pressure ulcer: An initial photograph shall be taken of each pressure stage and as needed
 - Actual/suspected abuse injury: An initial photograph shall be taken of each area of physical injury
- Photograph(s) will be placed in the patient’s medical record and remain under the confidentiality and security guidelines, policies and procedures that govern medical record security and confidentiality of this institution.
- The patient’s care provider is granted permission, while performing patient care activities, to obtain photographs for documentation of pressure ulcers and/or evidence of physical abuse, however must maintain compliance with the confidentiality and security of patient information regulations set forth by this institution.
- Recordings, films or other images made for the purpose of identification, diagnosis or treatment of the patient do **NOT** require patient consent.

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- Publicity and Promotion:
 - For publicity and promotion, utilize the Authorization and Consent Form - Recordings, Films or Other Images, and Publication. The patient or legal representative will receive informed consent and sign per the Informed Consent policy. The hospital representative from the Public Relations Department will make the explanations of the purposes and planned dissemination of the images. The original copy of the consent will be stored in the public relations files. A copy will be provided to the patient.

- Research:
 - The photographing or filming consent language and process of informed consent discussion will be included in the research consent reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board and will be stored in compliance with all research requirements. One copy is retained in the patient medical record.