

Appendix P: Assessment of Goals of Care

The following is not an exhaustive list of methods on assessing a person's goals of care. This mnemonic has been suggested as an example identified within the systematic review, AGREE II appraised guidelines, by the expert panel or external stakeholder feedback. It is an example of how to identify the goals of symptom management in people for whom wound healing is not a clinical expectation and where maintaining the person's comfort is key.

SPECIAL:

S – stabilize the wound. Collaborate with the person or the person's circle of care to prevent complications and/or further deterioration of the wound.

P – prevent new wounds. Collaborate with the person or the person's circle of care to assess and manage the person's risks for additional pressure injuries. Preventing additional pressure injuries will help avoid further physical discomfort.

E – eliminate odour. Collaborate with the person or the person's circle of care to reduce or eliminate unpleasant odours from a person's pressure injury to improve his/her quality of life.

C – control pain. Frequent turning and repositioning may not be possible due to the associated pain. In such cases, it is important to respect the person's preferences and goals of care with regard to a tailored repositioning schedule. Moreover, collaborate with the person or the person's circle of care to consider other non-pharmacological and pharmacological pain management strategies to help keep the person comfortable.

I – infection prevention. Collaborate with the person or the person's circle of care to prevent infections. Preventing infections helps avoid further physical discomfort and complications.

A – advanced absorbent wound dressing. Collaborate with the person or the person's circle of care to use dressings that help control wound drainage and odour.

L – lessen dressing changes as palliative care occurs. Collaborate with the person or the person's circle of care to reduce the frequency of dressing changes. Frequent dressing changes can be painful and beyond what the person can tolerate. (Perry et al., 2014)