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| Guidance regarding Clinical Judgement for Braden |

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| Academic studies have been done to measure effectiveness and reliability of risk tools verses clinical judgement.  They found that for the best results you needed to use a validated (tested) risk tool and clinical judgement together to predict risk of pressure damage most accurately.  Risk tools have limitations and will not fit every patient’s needs- this is why it is key that you use your clinical knowledge and judgement (if in doubt discuss it with your team). |

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| Consider - if the risk tool is scoring the patient as moderate risk and you disagree what element have they scored high on?  Scenario.  Patient A  Has motor neurone disease- speech is poor and non-existent when patient is tired. Can only independently move her head.  Bedbound and is unable to do any independent movement , has an intensive turning and positioning regime on a profiling(hospital) bed, has a catheter in and has bowl care 3 times a week and is a peg feed with a BMI of 13 .Patient has had frequent chest and urinary infections and twice gone to hospital with sepsis.  What Braden score does have?  2, 4,1,2,4 =13 moderate risk  Now using your clinical judgement you would think she is high risk?  So what has gone wrong?  Things to consider sensory perception this patient is unable to independently move herself, is severely disabled with motor neurone disease this patient most likely will have altered or reduced sensation and will struggle to tell us **meaningfully** if there is any discomfort over most of their body  Sensory perception could be a 1  Nutrition -they have total amount of nutrients but their BMI is 13 this says to me they are like a skeleton so the peg feed is not working effectively maybe there is some malabsorption problems  So nutrition would not be 4 it could be a 2 or even 1  Patient has frequent infections which would have resulted in a high temperature = moisture on the skin so scoring could of be 3 or even a 2 in the moisture category.  So let’s look again 1,3,1,2,1= 8 **very high risk**  It’s very easy when we are busy not to stop and consider what the text means in each element but it can make a big difference. |