**Surface Support Decision Tree**

**Braden Score 18 or less and/or Clinical Signs of Pressure (Blanchable or Non-blanchable Redness)**

- Use a standard hospital foam mattress (consider weight limit of mattress)
- Implement basic prevention strategies for skin breakdown:
  - head to toe skin assessment daily
  - head of bed below 30º
  - turn q2-4 hours
  - off-load heels

**Develops signs of pressure (blanchable or non-blanchable redness)**

- Assess patient for additional concerns contributing to potential or actual skin breakdown:
  - mattress unable to support weight (bottoming out)
  - edema
  - pressure points (i.e. coccyx, heels)
  - poor nutrition and dehydration
  - moisture (incontinence or excessive sweating or wound drainage)
  - friction/shear
  - head of bed greater than 30º over long periods of time (COPD, tube feeds, ventilation, TV, etc.)
  - pain (uncontrolled)
  - limited options for repositioning (i.e. broken hip)

**YES**

- Increase prevention strategies regarding additional concerns identified above
- Monitor skin integrity qshi/f_t
- Consult OT/PT to address mobility, activity and/or surface support challenges

**CONTINUED VISIBLE SIGNS OF PRESSURE? (blanchable or non-blanchable redness)**

**CONSIDER A THERAPEUTIC SURFACE FOR PATIENT/RESIDENT**

**Pressure Redistribution**
- Therapeutic pressure redistribution mattress
- Provide appropriate mattress for patients for weight

**Pressure Redistribution, Moisture, Friction, and/or Shear**
- Air mattress
- Low air loss mattress or overlay
- GORE-TEX cover sheet
- Microclimate

**Pressure Redistribution, Compromised Pulmonary, or Circulatory System**
- Low air loss mattress
- Percussion/pulsation
- Rotation
- Alternating pressure

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**What mattress types are available?**

**Reactive:** A powered or non-powered support surface with the capability to change its load distribution properties only in response to applied load, (i.e. the mattress reacts to the weight of the patient, but cannot perform other functions).

**Active:** A powered surface support, with the capacity to change its load distribution properties, with or without applied load, (i.e. the mattress has active features that can move and alter the position of the patient).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mattress Type</th>
<th>Mattress Visual</th>
<th>Mattress Specification</th>
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