

# Measuring success of a new education team: Mapping the future

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## Background

A pressure ulcer is defined in EPUAP guidelines as a localised damage to the skin and/or underlying tissue, as a result of pressure or pressure in combination with shear<sup>1</sup>. It is estimated that the annual cost of to the NHS in the UK is over £530million per annum<sup>2</sup>. In line with the NHS Improvement Pressure Ulcer Core Curriculum published in June 2018<sup>3</sup>, an investigation within Northern Lincolnshire & Goole NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust) suggested that the highest pressure ulcer incidence was in the community residential setting. Alison Schofield, Lead Tissue Viability Nurse Specialist for the Trust presented a business case and as a result, funding was made available to create a team of three educators. In December 2018 the "React to Red Team" was implemented within the Trust. React to Red Skin<sup>4</sup> is a pressure ulcer prevention campaign that is committed to educating as many people as possible about the dangers of pressure ulcers and the simple steps that can be take to avoid them. The React to Red team in the Trust comprises three pressure ulcer prevention educators working within the residential care setting.

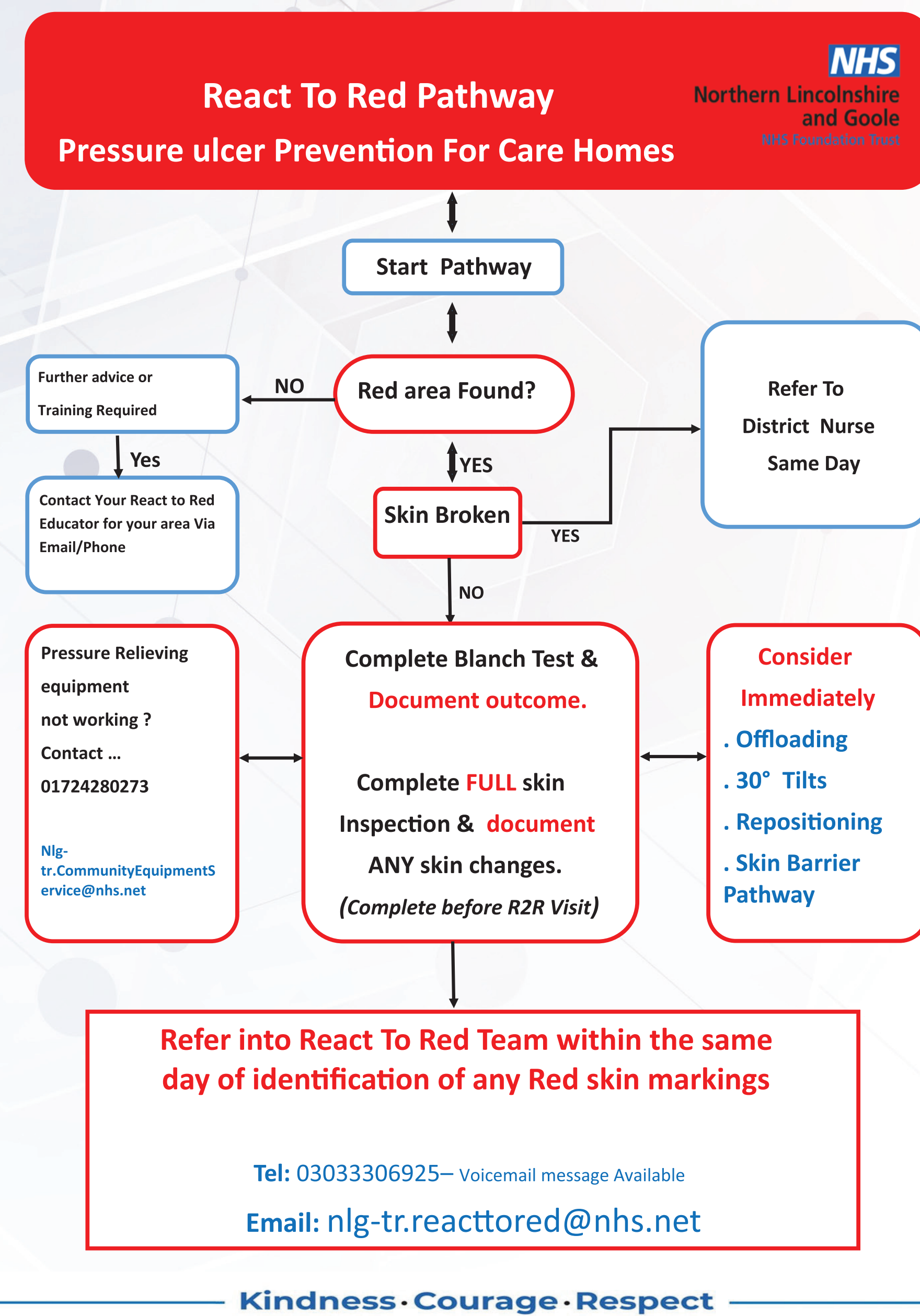
## The React to Red Team

The remit within the team is to deliver bespoke education to residential care settings to empower care staff to improve on their knowledge and skills by identifying the risks associated with pressure ulcers and implement changes using the aSSKING model to prevent pressure damage occurring.

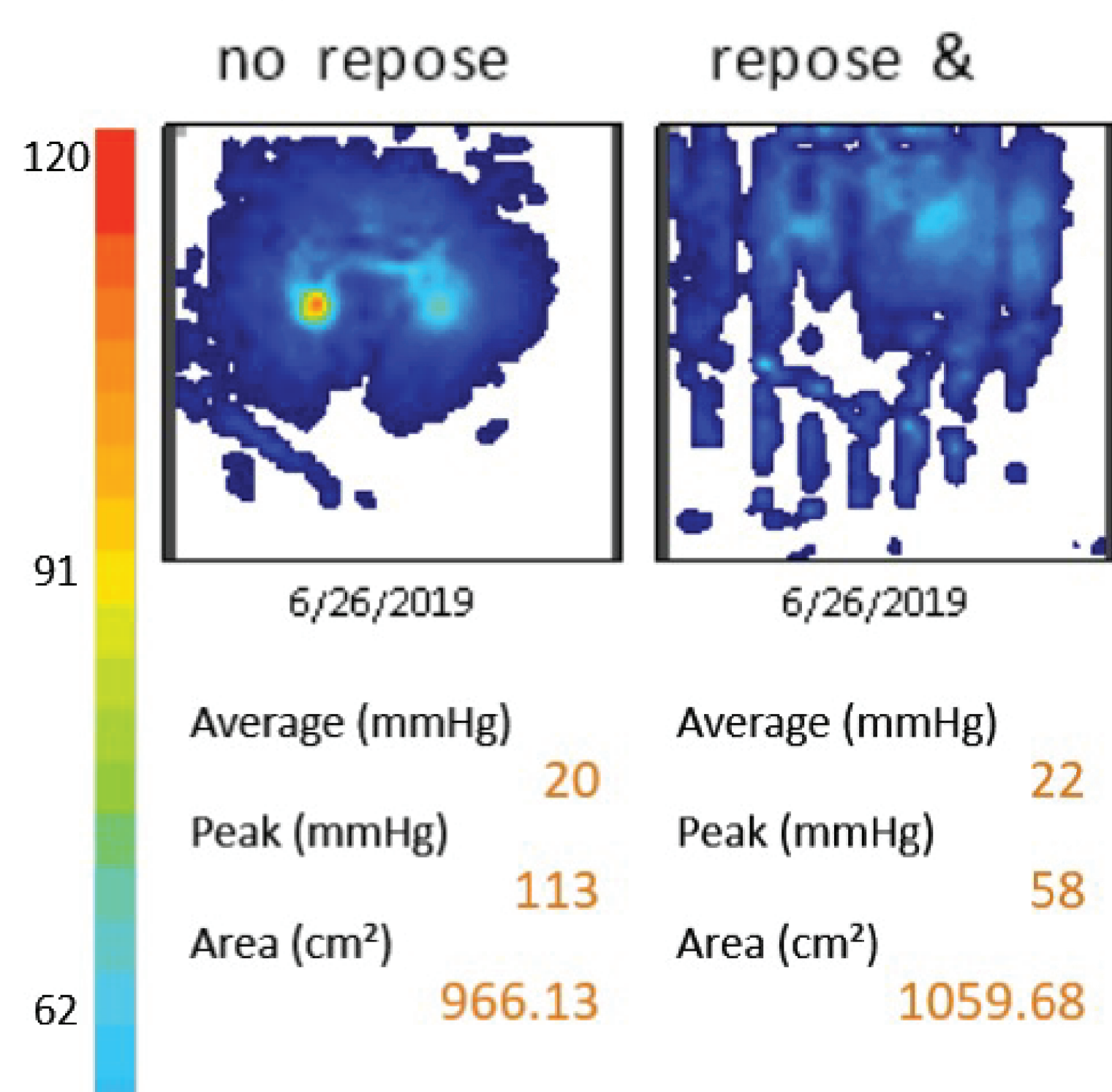


- A** Assess risk
- S** Skin assessment and skin care
- S** Surface
- K** Keep moving
- I** Incontinence
- N** Nutrition
- G** Giving information

The team have embedded a referral pathway to ensure advice is sought at the earliest possible stage to allow a full assessment on what measures can be implemented and advice given. The basis for longer term support and education is key to changing methodologies to identify risks at an early stage and implementing strategies to eliminate pressure ulcer incidences. During the delivery of education, we used pressure mapping systems to show the effects of pressure and this was found to be extremely useful. Although delivering education is a key role of the team, this education involves ensuring that carers know when they should be referring for specialist advice. For the React to Red team, alongside education, dealing with referrals has become a key service we offer.



Kindness · Courage · Respect



## Pressure Mapping<sup>5</sup>

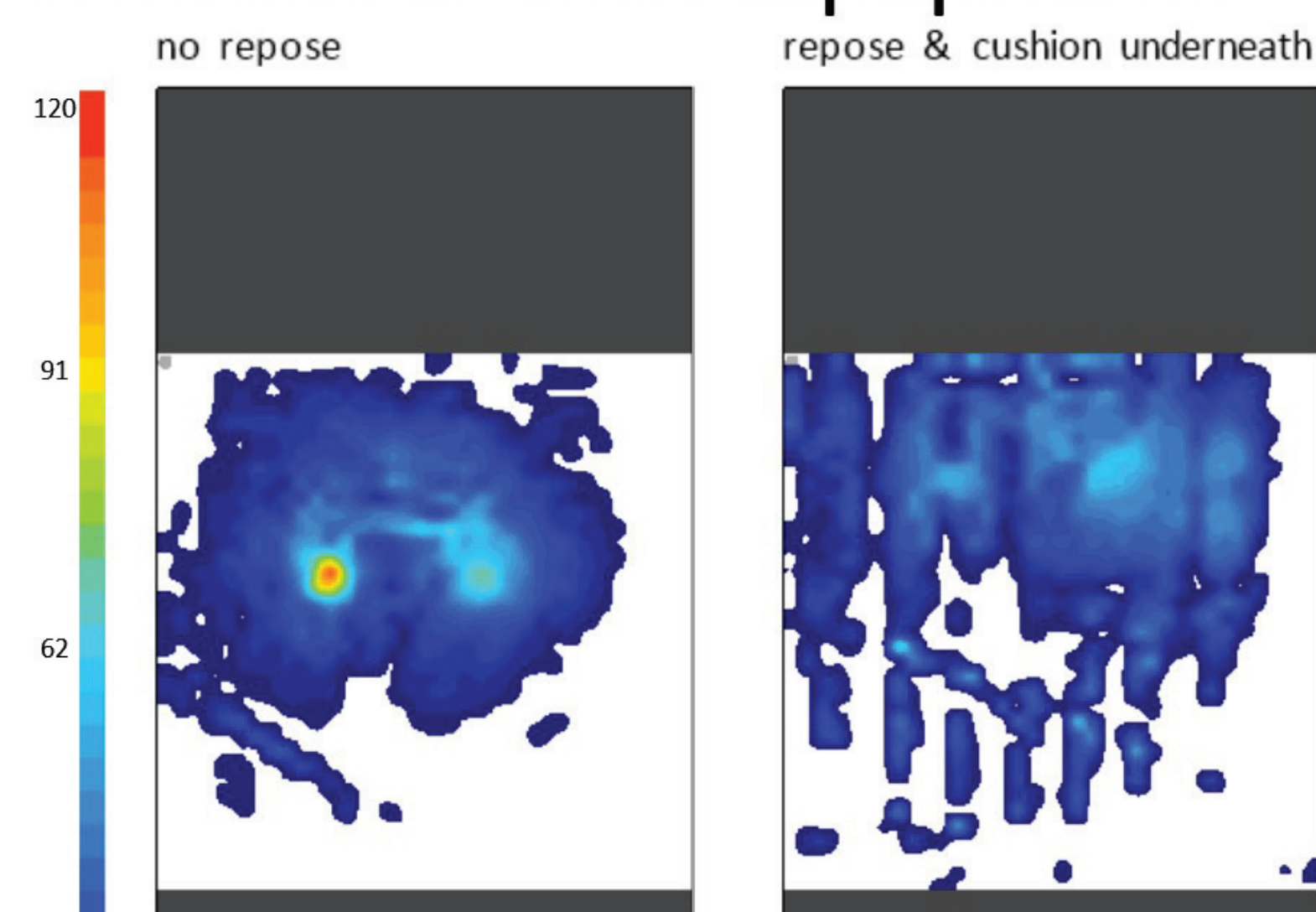
Pressure mapping has become an integral part of this process by allowing a more person-centred approach by identifying accurately the selection of equipment. Pressure imaging can be utilised to identify the current risk if any, that is in real time data making it a more person specific allowing care planning to be more holistic and personalised.

Here we see an example of a map before and after the use of a support surface. As can be seen, although the average pressure has increased slightly, the peak pressure has almost halved and the contact area increased, suggesting that there is greater envelopment and more even redistribution of pressure.

Since pressure imaging was introduced and made available, 90% of referrals made to the React to Red Team were specifically for pressure mapping, making this an integral part of the team's work. This has improved collaborative working relationships across all disciplines increasing referrals and the request for advice.



## without & with equipment



ForeSite

## Results to Date

The React to Red Team has currently trained more than 900 carers in residential homes. All carers are aware, following demonstrations of pressure mapping, the benefit it can have in personalised care planning.

Pressure Mapping was introduced within the community nursing teams, giving education surrounding its use and how it can aid clinical decision making. It has been highly successful for improving patient outcomes by allowing quicker and more accurate equipment selection and evidential for identifying in most cases the source of damage, this allowing for that risk factor being removed. Carers are now equipped with the knowledge to spot the signs of pressure damage and have a clear pathway to deal with this, knowing when to refer and who to refer to. The vast majority of referrals to the React to Red Team are specifically for pressure mapping. Communication has really improved since the introduction of structured education and pressure mapping.

Prior to the formation of the React to Red Team in December 2018, in Q3 (Oct-Dec) 2018, the total Pressure Ulcer incidence in care homes was 116. The following quarter Q4 (Jan-March) 2019, incidence fell to 89, a reduction of 23%. In the following quarter Q1 (Apr-Jun) 2019 incidence fell further to 81 and in Q2 (Jul-Sep) 2019, incidence fell to 71. Comparing Q2 2019 with Q3 2018, we have seen a reduction in incidence of 39%.

## Future Work

The React to Red Team will continue its work into 2020 introducing training to domiciliary carers and 1:1 visiting with District Nursing teams for support in Pressure Ulcer Prevention and ASSKING risk assessment. We will continue to monitor Pressure Ulcer Incidence, with the hope that education, pressure mapping and greater communication between teams will lead to further reductions.

<sup>1</sup> EPUAP (European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel): Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers/Injuries: Clinical Practical Guideline. The International Guideline 2019

<sup>2</sup> JF Guest et al; International Wound Journal 2016

<sup>3</sup> [https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/2921/Pressure\\_ulcer\\_core\\_curriculum\\_2.pdf](https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/2921/Pressure_ulcer_core_curriculum_2.pdf) Publication code: SL 10/18

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.reactoredskin.co.uk/>

<sup>5</sup> ForeSiteSS is manufactured by Xsensor Technology Corporation, Canada and distributed in the UK and Ireland exclusively by Sumed International (UK) Ltd <https://sumedinternational.com/pressure-mapping/>