

CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES

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Improving Outcomes: Linking Braden Scale Assessment to HoverTech Solutions

The Braden Scale for Predicting Pressure Injury Risk was developed in 1987 by Dr. Barbara Braden and Dr. Nancy Bergstrom as a standardized method to assess a patient’s risk for developing pressure injuries. It has become one of the most widely used risk assessment tools in healthcare settings worldwide. Its simplicity, reliability, and focus on key risk factors make it an essential part of nursing assessments and prevention strategies.

Low Score = High Risk

Braden Score ≤ 18 at Risk



The Braden Scale evaluates six specific categories that influence pressure injury risk: sensory perception, moisture, activity, mobility, nutrition, and friction & shear. Each category is scored on a scale (typically 1–4, except friction/shear which is 1–3), with lower scores indicating higher risk. The total score ranges from 6 to 23, and most guidelines classify a score of 18 or below as at risk. This allows clinicians to quickly identify patients who may need additional preventive measures early in their care.

Incorporating the Braden Scale into routine patient assessments supports early intervention. For example, a low score may prompt the immediate implementation of pressure redistribution surfaces, repositioning schedules (Q2 turning), or moisture management strategies. EMR alerts can help us nurses to recognize what our patient needs based on their score. Early recognition and action can significantly reduce the incidence of pressure injuries, which are associated with pain, infection risk, increased length of stay, higher healthcare costs as well as death.

Braden Category	How HoverTech Supports
Moisture	Breathable materials help manage the microclimate by reducing heat and moisture build-up under the patient.
Activity	Enables easier transfers in and out of bed, encouraging participation in mobility and therapy services.
Mobility	Makes turning, boosting, and repositioning effortless and supports frequent position changes.
Friction & Shear	Reduces friction and shear.

By using the Braden Scale consistently, facilities can improve patient safety, reduce adverse events, and align with evidence-based guidelines such as those from the National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel (NPIAP). Whether you are at the bedside or providing solutions to healthcare teams, understanding and applying this tool can directly contribute to better patient outcomes and stronger quality metrics.