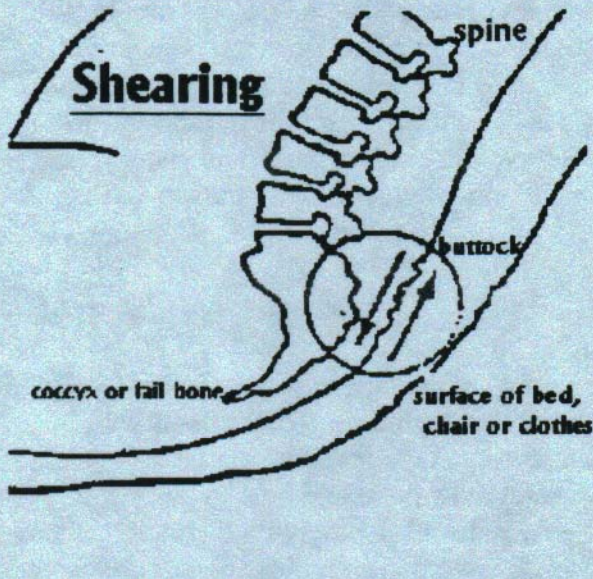


STAGE IV

A Stage IV wound extends through the skin and involves underlying muscle, tendons and bone. The diameter of the wound is not as important as the depth. This is *very* serious and can produce a life threatening infection, especially if not aggressively treated. All of the goals of protecting, cleaning and alleviation of pressure on the area still apply. Nutrition and hydration is now critical. Without adequate nutrition, this wound will not heal. Anyone with a Stage IV wound requires medical care by someone skilled in wound care. Surgical removal of the necrotic or decayed tissue is often used on wounds of larger diameter. A skilled wound care physical therapist or nurse can successfully treat a smaller diameter wound without the necessity of surgery.

STAGE V

This is an older classification and not now used in all areas. A stage 5 wound is a wound that is extremely deep having gone through the muscle layers and now involves underlying organs and bone. It is difficult to heal. Surgical removal of the necrotic or decayed tissue is the usual treatment.



Shearing or rubbing occurs whenever there is friction on the surface of the skin over the coccyx (tail-bone) area from another surface, be it clothing, bed linens, or a wheelchair.

A Decubitus ulcer is primarily formed from the pressure and weight of one's own body pressing the skin and other tissues between the person's bone(s) and a firm surface, such as the seat of a wheel chair.

