

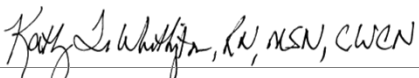
Subject: Use of Linens and Incontinence Pads in Combination with Span-America Pressure Management and Microclimate Management Products

- **Use linens on all Span-America surfaces.** We recommend the use of sheets/linen on all Span-America therapeutic specialty surfaces and mattresses.
- **Use as few layers as possible:** Span-America support surfaces are manufactured with a variety of features designed to provide specific therapeutic benefits. External features, including surface geometry and cover design, are intended to reduce shear, friction, heat and moisture, and to allow for pressure redistribution/immersion. If multiple layers of linens, and/or non-breathable pads are introduced, the clinical efficacy of the support surface underneath it may be compromised.¹
- **Flat, fitted, non-stretch, or stretch linens are appropriate for all PressureGuard and Geo-Mattress models,** with the following considerations:
 - **Models with raised perimeters,** (examples: Geo-Mattress® with Wings®, PressureGuard®APM²Safety Supreme) Use flat sheets, knitted stretch-fit sheets, or deep-pocket fitted sheets.
 - **Models with stretch fabric covers,** (example Geo-Mattress® UltraMax™, PressureGuard®APM²) non-stretch sheets are preferred. To maximize mobility and repositioning, avoid the use of stretch linens when possible.
 - **Models that provide microclimate management(LAL):** (Examples: PressureGuard Easy Air® series, Pressure Guard® Protocol™, Pressure Guard® Custom Care® LAL, The Topper MicroEnvironment Manager™) To allow the unimpeded moisture vapor and heat transport required for effective microclimate management, the use and placement of anything other than a sheet, a disposable under pad (breathable) or draw sheet is contraindicated.²
 - **Models for recessed deck frames:** To avoid restricting proper expansion of the surface, use only fitted sheets made for surfaces at least 84" long, flat sheets or sheets designed specifically for recessed deck beds.

Notes

1. National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel and Pan Pacific Pressure Injury Alliance (2014). Prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers; clinical practice guidelines. Washington, DC: National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel. PP107-108

2. Microclimate management products are designed to address, reduce, prevent and treat moisture related skin issues due to excess perspiration/sweat and heat especially in patients that are obese, febrile, and/or diaphoretic due to infection, antibiotics and/or analgesics. When using the Braden subscale for moisture to determine risk for moisture related skin breakdown, be sure **the moisture issues being evaluated are related to perspiration/sweat only**. Unlike air fluidized therapy ("bead bed") surfaces, microclimate management products are not designed to blow air directly on the body, nor are they intended to dry incontinence or wound drainage. Additionally, microclimate management products use cover fabrics that allow only moisture vapor to pass through them, not liquid. Incontinence should be treated with the proper barriers, briefs and/or diapers to prevent and treat incontinence related dermatitis. Open wounds should be covered with a dressing to protect the wound from environmental drying (moist wound healing being the accepted standard of care) or to absorb excess drainage. Source: *Pressure Ulcer Prevention: Pressure, Shear, Friction and Microclimate in Context. A Consensus Document. Wounds International 2010*


Kathy Whittington, RN, MSN, CWCN
Manager, Clinical Services


Derrill Darby,
Vice President, Quality