



National Alliance of Wound Care  
and Ostomy®

June 28, 2017

In April 2016, the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) announced a change in terminology recommending the term "pressure injury" to replace the term "pressure ulcer". NPUAP explained in a press release "The change in terminology more accurately describes pressure injuries to both intact and ulcerated skin." In addition to the terminology changes NPUAP also recommended changes from Roman numerals to arabic numbers, along with other clarifications to the existing staging definitions.

The National Alliance of Wound Care and Ostomy®(NAWCO®) Board of Directors and WCC® Certification Committee voted and have agreed to adopt the updated pressure related definitions and terminology established by the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP).

NAWCO® has begun the transition of updating the NAWCO® certification examinations and all related materials to include the new definitions and terminology. Further NAWCO® supports and encourages all NAWCO® certified clinicians to utilize and transition to the new definitions.

NAWCO® is the largest and fastest growing group of certified wound care and ostomy clinicians in the United States.

Detailed information regarding the new staging definitions and tips on implementation can be found at the NPUAP website, [www.npuap.org](http://www.npuap.org).