

Use the Care Thermometer to find out!

The immediate demands of busy care environments can sometimes make it difficult to step back and look at the overall picture. Are carers exposed to unacceptable physical care loads? Are residents or patients getting the mobilisation they need? Now there is a tool to help you read the actual care temperature of your unit or facility – The Care Thermometer.

Introducing the Care Thermometer

The Care Thermometer is an easy-to-use, web-based, self-assessment tool. It will help you gain a clear, efficient and reliable overview of the present situation in your care unit or facility. All usage of the Care Thermometer is free of charge.

This tool focuses on the physical loads carers are exposed to, as a means to pinpoint improvement areas. A step-by-step assessment form generates an overview based on your data about resident mobility levels, basic care tasks and support equipment.

The Care Thermometer allows you to read the true care temperature of your facility today, and with regular use it can track your improvements in the quality of care.

This leaflet will give you an overview of the Care Thermometer.

For a closer look, visit:

www.carethermometer.com



What's your care temperature?

www.carethermometer.com



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Using the Care Thermometer will give you a greater understanding of the situation in your unit or whole facility. Generating an overview is an easy step-by-step process.

How the Care Thermometer works

The Care Thermometer transforms basic data on your everyday care routines into an insight on the way you work. Assessing the mobility of your residents is the first step. The Care Thermometer uses categorisation based on functional mobility – the Mobility Gallery. The next step is to provide information relating to daily patient handling routines such as transfers and hygiene care. Finally, you enter data on the type of equipment used to support staff in assisting with these activities.

After rapidly processing all this data, the tool generates the Care Thermometer, which displays the level of risks covering all activities in your unit in a distinctive, visual way as a summary in red, yellow and green.

An easy route to the actual care temperature

The user-friendly Care Thermometer assessment form is easy to fill in and follows a simple step-by-step procedure. At www.carethermometer.com there is also a comprehensive user guide and all the necessary background information for getting the most out of the Care Thermometer.



RED is for unacceptable.

Transfer or activity is “unacceptable” for the carer/s. The assessment has revealed a **high risk** of physical overload during the transfer or activity when comparing equipment provision to resident mobility.

A more detailed risk assessment should be undertaken and escalated as appropriate **immediately**. This may include involvement of your Moving and Handling Advisor or appropriate Clinical Manager.

YELLOW is for unsafe.

Transfer or activity is “unsafe” for the carer/s. The assessment has revealed a **medium risk** of physical overload during the transfer or activity when comparing equipment provision to resident mobility.

A risk assessment should be undertaken **as soon as possible** to ensure adequate controls are in place.

GREEN is for safe.

Transfer or activity is “safe” for the carer/s. The assessment has revealed a **low risk** of physical overload during the transfer or activity when comparing equipment provision to resident mobility.

Assess a unit or the whole facility

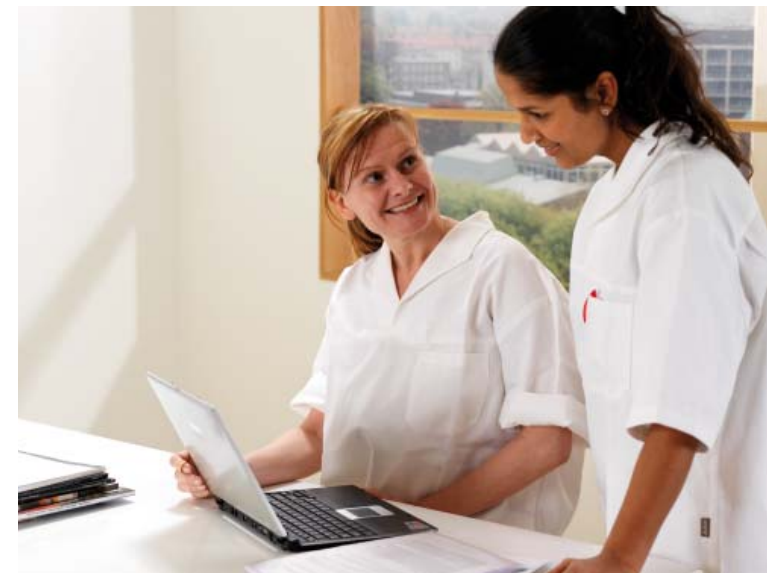
A single Care Thermometer reading gives you a snapshot of the care situation in a unit. Extended use of the tool brings you a much greater understanding of the overall care situation. It can be used at unit or facility level. You can build up an overview of the entire facility by looking at all the units. The care situation on different units can then be compared to see if equipment resources are being optimally distributed.

Long-term benefits

The assessments from the Care Thermometer can be used to refine or design an effective injury prevention policy. Findings from the Care Thermometer can, for example, provide the basis for well-informed decisions on better allocation of support equipment or provision of new equipment to ensure safe, high-quality care.

Importantly, you can evaluate progress over time. Regular readings of the Care Thermometer for a specific unit or the facility can show improvements in care load risk levels and track enhancements in the quality of care.

We know your time is valuable, so the Care Thermometer focuses on easily accessible data that is simple to enter online. Alternatively, an assessment form can be printed out, filled in manually and entered when convenient. It takes experienced users about 20 minutes to complete a full assessment of a unit.



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