

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT: 2 Tips Help You Use The PUSH Tool Effectively

Ensure consistent measurements and trigger points for action

These two strategies will go a long way toward making sure the PUSH tool packs a powerful punch in the care planning and quality assurance (QA) arenas.

1. Train a team to use the PUSH tool and have the same person/team do the assessments weekly. "Interrater reliability is a big component of how successfully the tool determines a wound's status and progress," says **Joyce Black, PhD, RN**.

2. Develop an action protocol based on the person's score. "If the wound score stalls, deteriorates--or the person develops symptoms of infection or pain, the protocol should spell out what [the wound team] should do," says Black. "The protocol should also instruct what to do if the wound has improved over two weeks."