

# DECLARATION OF RIO DE JANEIRO ON PRESSURE ULCERS PREVENTION AS A UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHT (OCTOBER 2011)

Considering that:

- 1- States are responsible to guarantee people right to life and health.
- 2- Pressure ulcers are a major health problem, which affects millions of people worldwide, deteriorates their health and quality of life, and, eventually, can lead to disability and death.
- 3- Pressure ulcers produce high costs for Healthcare systems and could lead to serious ethical consequences and legal issues for professionals.
- 4- Scientific knowledge currently available has proved that these lesions could be almost completely avoided (at least at 95 %).
- 5- Pressure ulcers are an adverse event and it must be considered as a major threat for patients' safety both in Healthcare systems and in the Community.

In order to deal with this problem it is necessary:

- 1- To achieve a strong commitment for the development and implementation of determined policies aimed to prevent this important public health problem.
- 2- To assure that people have an equitable and universal access to high quality technical and human resources to prevent and treat these lesions.
- 3- To guarantee the use of quality and scientific evidence-based criteria, not just economic ones, when preventive and therapy resources are selected.
- 4- To improve both basic and post-basic education for Healthcare professionals about caring for people with or at risk of suffering these lesions, using an interdisciplinary and integral approach.
- 5- To promote research, development and innovation for making progress in the knowledge about caring for people with these problems.
- 6- To promote the creation of wound-care specialized clinical settings, with a clear interdisciplinary approach, and the availability of expert consultants in every community and healthcare setting.
- 7- To reinforce the Nursing leadership for caring people with pressure ulcers, because nurses are the professionals with the most suitable education and most adequate position in Healthcare systems to do this.

This declaration have been promoted by:

GNEAUPP (Spanish National Group for the Study and Advise on Pressure Ulcers and chronic wounds)

SILAHUE (Ibero-Latin-American Society on Wounds)

