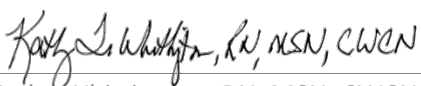


## **Subject:** Use of linens on Span-America therapeutic support surfaces

- **Use linens on all Span-America surfaces.** We recommend the use of sheets/linen on all 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 linen, and/or non-breathable pads are introduced, the clinical efficacy of the support surface underneath it may be compromised.<sup>1</sup>
- **Flat, fitted, non-stretch, or stretch linens are appropriate for all PressureGuard and Geo-Mattress models,** with the following exceptions:
  - **Models with raised perimeters,** (examples: Geo-Mattress® with Wings®, PressureGuard® APM<sup>2</sup> Safety Supreme) Use flat sheets, knitted stretch-fit sheets, or deep-pocket fitted sheets.
  - **Models with stretch fabric covers,** (example Geo-Mattress® UltraMax™, PressureGuard® APM<sup>2</sup>) non-stretch sheets are preferred. To maximize mobility and repositioning, avoid the use of stretch linens when possible.
  - **Models that provide microclimate management,** (Examples: PressureGuard Easy Air® series, Pressure Guard® Protocol™, Pressure Guard® Custom Care®) To allow the unimpeded moisture vapor 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.
  - **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.

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



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



Derrill Darby  
Director, Quality