

Selected characteristics for classes of support surfaces

Performance Characteristics	Support Devices					
	Air-Fluidized	Low-Air-Loss Mattress	Alternating Air Mattress	Static Flotation (air or water)	Foam Mattress	Standard Mattress
Increased support area	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Low moisture retention	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Reduced heat accumulation	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Shear reduction	Yes	?	Yes	Yes	No	No
Pressure reduction	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Dynamic	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Cost per day	High	High	Moderate	Low	Low	Low

Berstrom N, Bennett MA, Carlson CE, et al. *Treatment of Pressure Ulcers*. Clinical Practice Guideline, No. 15. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Public Health Service, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research. AHCPR Publication No. 95-0652. December 1994.