This algorithm is meant as a guide, not a substitute for clinical judgment. It should be used only as an adjunct to a full patient assessment, and should not preclude use of any product positioned higher on the algorithm.

Support Surface Management
ALGORITHM

Does the patient require microclimate management?

YES

PressureGuard Easy Air
PressureGuard Easy Air LR
PressureGuard Easy Air XL (>500 lbs.)
PressureGuard Custom Care Convertible LAL (with control unit)

NO

PressureGuard Protocol

Does the patient have multiple Stage 3/4/UNS* pressure injuries (other than on the heels)?

YES

Does the patient have a stabilized (4-6 weeks post-op) flap or graft?

YES

PressureGuard Span-Care
PressureGuard Custom Care

NO

PressureGuard Protocol

NO

Does the patient have multiple Stage 3/4/UNS* pressure injuries (other than on the heels)?

YES

Is the pressure injury complex (heavy exudate infection, poor nutrition, etc.)?

YES

The Topper Microenvironment Manager™ (MEM) can be added to these products when patient conditions require management of excess heat and moisture.

NO

PressureGuard Span-Care
PressureGuard Custom Care

Does the patient have multiple Stage 2 or single Stage 3/4/UNS* pressure injuries (other than on the heels)?

YES

PressureGuard Protocol

NO

PressureGuard Protocol

NO

PressureGuard Protocol

Geo-Mattress HC
Geo-Mattress Max/Plus/Pro/350
Geo-Mattress with Wings
Geo-Mattress UltraMax
Geo-Mattress Atlas (>500 lbs.)
PressureGuard Custom Care

Notes/Clinical References:

1. If patient has a flap or graft that is less than 4 weeks post-op, total off-loading (proning) or air fluidized therapy is required. Avoid sliding patient on surface during repositioning, ADLs & transfers. Only float or alternating pressure modes (not lateral rotation) should be used when the patient is placed directly on the flap or graft. Source: Wound Care Practice. Sheffield, P. 1st edition, 2004, Chapter 17, P. 345. Other Span surfaces may be appropriate if used according to the guidelines.

2. In situations where positioning on the pressure injury cannot be avoided (e.g. the individual has multiple injuries [ulcers] on multiple surfaces), limit the amount of time the individual is positioned on the injury. Source: NPUAP/EPUAP Pressure Ulcer Prevention & Treatment, Clinical Practice Guideline, p. 66-67.

3. Heel injuries are difficult to heal and should be elevated off of the bed. Consider using Heel Manager™ or other Span positioners.

4. UltraMax may also be appropriate for multiple Stage 2 or single Stage 3 pressure injuries, and Max, Plus, Pro, Wings, Atlas or 350 may be appropriate for single Stage 2 pressure injuries, based on full assessment of skin status and repositioning required, according to best clinical practice and judgment.

5. As bariatric products, the Easy Air XL and APM Bariatric are not designed to ensure sufficient pressure redistribution and comfort for users less than 500 lbs. For these users, non-bariatric PressureGuard models in standard (35"W) or extra-wide widths should be selected.

*UNS—Unstageable Pressure Injury: observed full-thickness skin and tissue loss—NPUAP, 2018