

## An Interdisciplinary Approach to Reducing Pressure Ulcers in the Geriatric Trauma Population

Kai L. Bortz RN

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Kai\_L.Bortz@lvhn.org

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# An Interprofessional Approach to Reducing Pressure Ulcers in the Geriatric Trauma Population

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA

Geriatric trauma patients are at high risk of developing pressure ulcers post trauma. Pressure ulcers represent a significant morbidity and cost in trauma patients, with reported morbidity incidence rates of up to 20%.

## Background

Pressure ulcers are associated with:

- Functional decline
- Prolonged length of stay
- Increased health care costs +\$43,180/hospital stay
- Readmissions
- Morbidity and mortality

## Goal

Implement a multidisciplinary performance improvement (PI) project to decrease pressure ulcers

## PU Prevention Project

### PROJECT DESIGN

- Pressure Ulcer (PU) Prevalence Studies
  - Occurrences and Rates

### SETTING

- 30 bed medical-surgical trauma unit in an academic, community Magnet® hospital's Level I Trauma Center.

## Implementation Plan

### Education

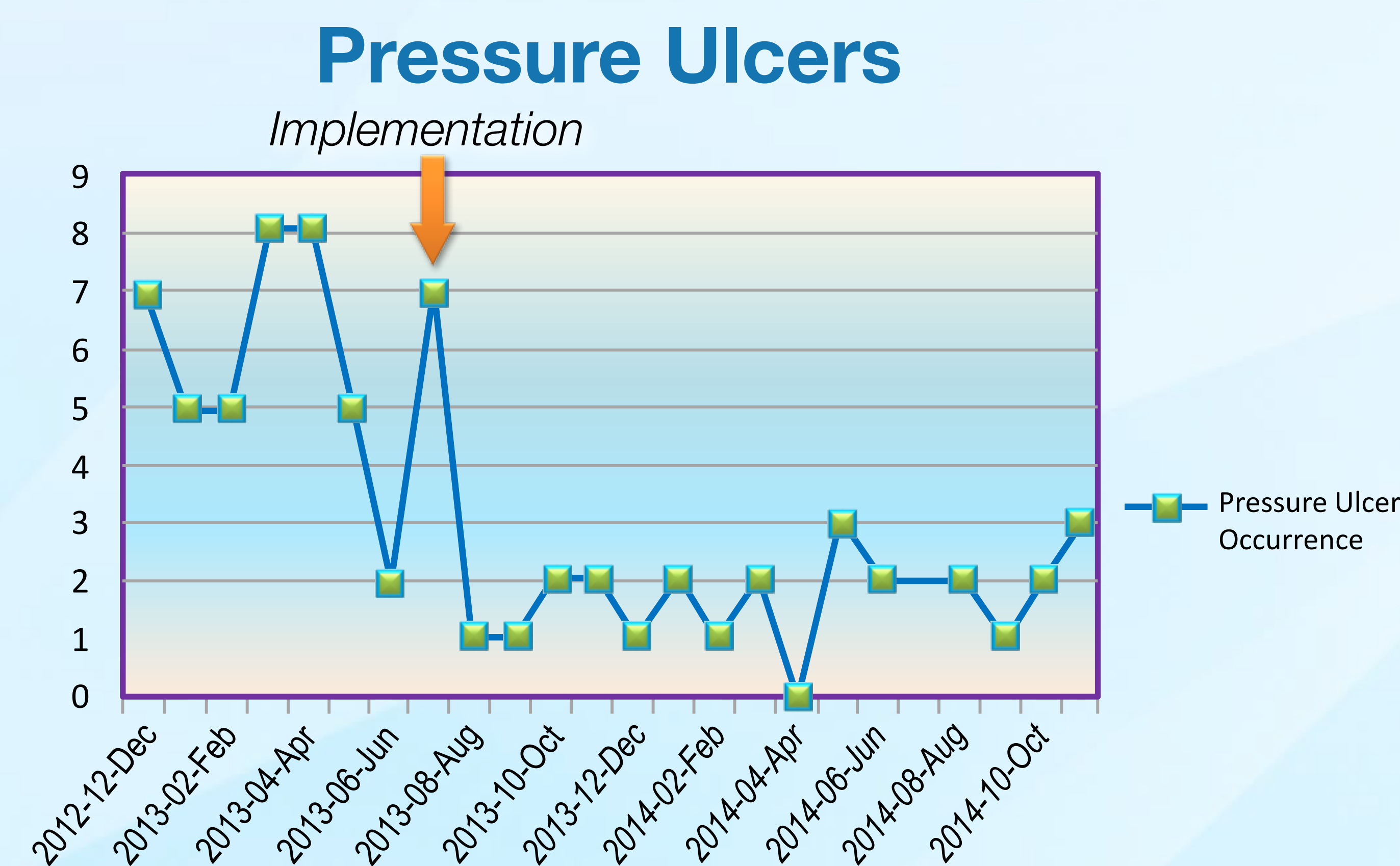
- Unit-based Performance Improvement Committee
- Unit Champions
- Wound Care Nursing Meeting
- Re-education of all unit staff
  - Staging of ulcers
  - Skin assessment
  - Wound care nurse consultation
  - Chair cushions for all patients at risk
  - Barrier creams, adhesives
  - Turning/repositioning
  - Documentation of meal completion
  - Braden scoring
  - Communication of skin risk on white boards
  - Patient and family education

### Interventions

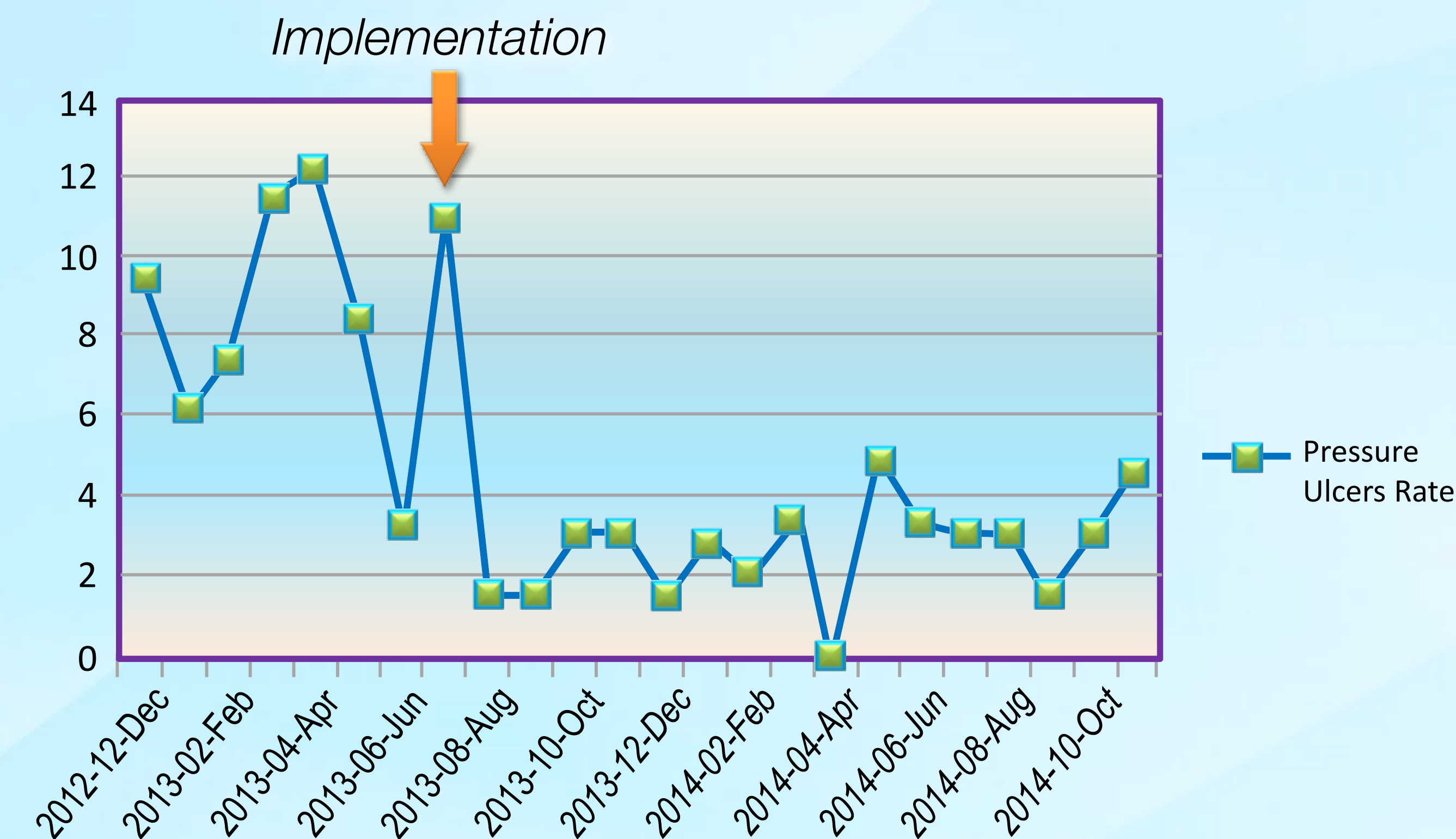
- Twice daily huddles
  - Identify patients at risk
  - Ensure appropriate interventions are in place
- Underpad linen levels decreased
  - Increased layers of linen increase the risk of skin breakdown by 20-25%
- Nutrition in-services
- Current nutrition consultation revised

## Results

### Total Pressure Ulcers



### Pressure Ulcers Rate



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