Implementing a Skin Assessment Tool in the Operating Room.

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Implementing a Skin Assessment Tool in the Operating Room

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Current Research shows:
• There is a direct relationship between risk factors and the occurrence of skin complications during surgery.

The Scott Triggers Tool has proven to decrease the incidence of perioperative pressure ulcers. These findings support the call for pre-operative skin assessment and documentation for patients undergoing surgery.

A pre-operative risk and skin assessment allows the Operating Room to plan interventions to prevent pressure ulcers.

PICO QUESTION

In the intra-operative population, does the utilization of a skin assessment tool increase the Registered Nurse’s practice of performing a pre-operative skin assessment?

Nurses in the Operating Room at Cedar Crest were asked on a 5 point Likert scale how well they would rate their pre-operative skin assessment and documentation. 1 being very unaware of their patients skin conditions, 5 being very aware of their patients skin conditions

The Scott Triggers tool was distributed to each nurse for each surgery. The nurses were asked to fill out the tool prior to each surgery and instructed to return it. After a two-week period the nurses were asked if they had utilized the Scott Triggers tool in the past two weeks. If the nurse did utilize the tool, they were asked to rate their pre-operative skin assessment and documentation using the 5 point Likert scale.

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In conclusion, we agree that more research needs to be conducted in the adherence of skin assessment and documentation by the OR nurses to aid in better patient care and lessen the burden of unnecessary loss of compensation to the network.

REFERENCES

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DISCUSSION

The majority of 45 OR nurses initially surveyed were able to be surveyed post data collection.
51% reported that the use of the Scott Triggers tool had increased their skin assessment documentation and/or skin assessment awareness.

48% of 45 OR nurses performed at LVHN Cedar Crest. Of the 451 cases, 41% of those cases had nursing staff that completed and returned the Scott Trigger’s Surveys.

- 75% of 45 OR nurses initially surveyed were able to be surveyed post data collection.
- 51% reported that the use of the Scott Triggers tool had increased their skin assessment documentation and/or skin assessment awareness.