

# Patient Engagement to Improve Care and Maintenance of Cervical Collars (Poster).

Kai L. Bortz MSN, RN, CMSRN, CNL  
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Kai\_L.Bortz@lvhn.org

Abigail E. Moore BS, BSN, RN  
Lehigh Valley Health Network, abigail\_e.moore@lvhn.org

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# Patient Engagement to Improve Care & Maintenance of Cervical Collars

Transitional Trauma Unit and Patient Education Department  
Lehigh Valley Health Network Allentown, Pennsylvania

**Purpose:** Share a best practice change initiated on a transitional trauma unit (TTU) in a Level I Trauma Center to improve care and maintenance of cervical collars.

**Objectives:**

- Gain knowledge of evidence which suggests a combination of video, conversation and hands-on demonstration achieves the highest levels of knowledge retention.
- Become aware of tactics within each of the aforementioned domains to improve correct utilization and associated outcomes related to cervical collars.

## INTRODUCTION

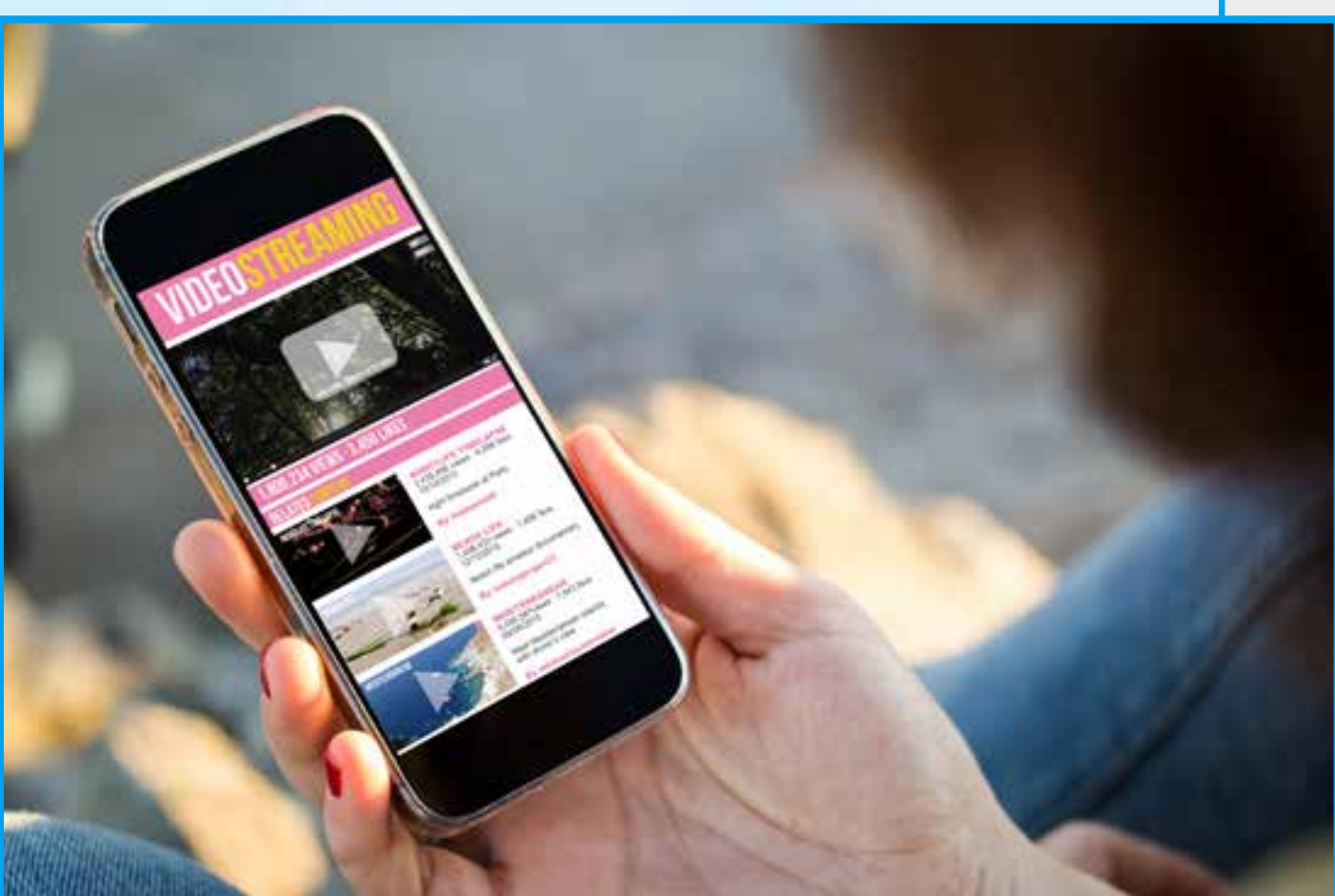
**Problem:**

Noted issues by nurses and providers in outpatient settings related to patients discharged from an acute care setting to home with a cervical collar

- Improper collar fit
- Pads not being changed
- Skin breakdown related to inappropriate collar management

**Root Causes:**

- Varied nurse knowledge & skills related to collars
- Long and complex written patient education for collars
- Inconsistent requirements for patients and families to demonstrate collar-related knowledge



## CASE PRESENTATION/ PROJECT DESIGN

**Actions:**

- Creation of a cervical collar care video
  - Focus
    - Proper collar fit
    - Collar pad changing & cleaning
    - Importance & risk factors of skin assessment
  - Shown prior to hospital discharge; links provided to access at home; DVD given if no internet
  - Demonstration of related knowledge and skills required by patient/family
- Production of electronic learning module on collar utilization for nurses
  - Mandatory viewing and demonstration of associated competencies

## DISCUSSION/FUTURE STEPS/ CONCLUSIONS

**Evaluation of Practice Change:**

- Nurse Residency Evidence-Based Practice Project
  - Comparison of patient knowledge in 5 areas regarding cervical collars pre-and post-video viewing
  - Significant knowledge increase in all 5 categories
- Outpatient assessment of 17 patients discharged from TTU to home with collar
  - 82% had collars on correctly; no instances of skin breakdown

**Subsequent Actions:**

- Distribution of collar video
  - All inpatient settings
  - Home health
  - Regional long term care facilities

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