

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

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlyworks.lvhn.org/patient-care-services-nursing>



Part of the [Nursing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Published In/Presented At

Bortz, K. Moore, A. E., (2017, April). *Patient Engagement to Improve Care and Maintenance of Cervical Collars*. Poster Presented at: The 2017 Society of Trauma Nurses Annual Conference, St Louis, MO.

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by LVHN Scholarly Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in LVHN Scholarly Works by an authorized administrator. For more information, please contact LibraryServices@lvhn.org.

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

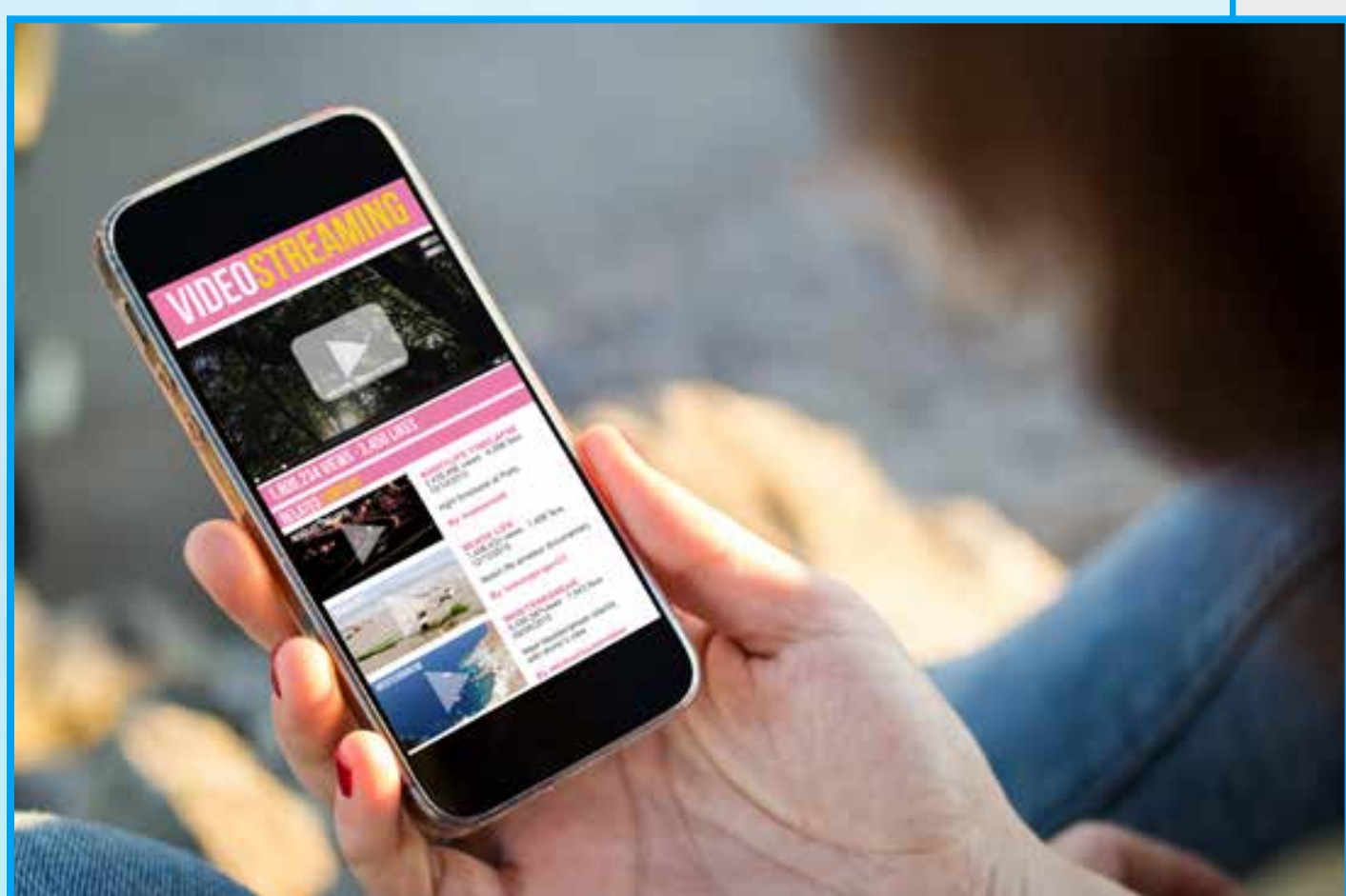
Problem:

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

Reference:

1. Aceron, R. (2005). Cervical spine injuries: what emergency nurses need to know. *NENA Outlook*, 28(2), 20-22.
2. Damadi, A., Saxe, A., Fath, J., & Apelgren, K. (2008). Cervical spine fractures in patients 65 years or older: a 3-year experience at a level I trauma center. *Journal of Trauma*, 64(3), 745-748.
3. Holding, L., (2009). Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences. *Journal of Singing*, 66(2), 193-199.
4. Ivancic, P. C. (2013). Do cervical collars and cervicothoracic orthoses effectively stabilize the injured cervical spine? A biomechanical investigation. *Spine* (03622436), 38(13), E767-74.
5. Jacobson, T., Tescher, A., Miers, A., & Downer, L. (2008). Improving practice: efforts to reduce occipital pressure ulcers. *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*, 23(3), 283-28.



Magnet™ Since
2002



© 2016 Lehigh Valley Health Network

610-402-CARE LVHN.org