Back to Basics – Interdisciplinary Collaboration on Skin Care Impacts Network-Wide Practice.

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“Back to Basics” - Interdisciplinary Collaboration on Skin Care Impacts Network-Wide Practice
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Purpose:
In 2008 governmental changes in Medicare reimbursement were implemented regarding non reimbursement for all Stage II pressure ulcers acquired in the health care setting. Health care settings significantly will feel the impact of this non reimbursement. Given these significant changes an orthopedic medical-surgical unit in an academic, community, Magnet health network investigated and implemented key strategies to significantly impact reduction of pressure ulcers in the medical surgical population. This poster presentation is to outline one medical-surgical unit’s initiative to decrease pressure ulcers, which has significantly resulted in improving patient care in the acute care setting while decreasing costs.

Back to Basics:
• Completed evidenced based research on the use of under pads vs. draw sheets. From this evidence we now only use draw sheets under our patients to decrease shearing.
• Extensive unit education given to staff on the use of appropriate prevention interventions and skin assessments.
• Patient scenario quizzes were given to staff. Reasoning – needed to determine further educational needs of staff.
• The use of chair cushions on all of our orthopedic/ medical surgical patients.
• Changes made to charting in our hospital computer system to improve the accuracy of skin assessments.
• One on one education with staff when completing weekly chart reviews.
• Elevation of heels off of bed with towels or with use of heel protector boots. This practice was reinforced with hourly rounding which was completed by RN’s and Technical Partners.
• Education given to patients and staff on the importance of frequent turning and repositioning to decrease the occurrence of pressure ulcers.

Where We Were:

Outcomes:
• Ongoing education for staff to ensure correct documentation of assessments in hospital computer system.
• Unit Enterostomal therapy RN sessions with staff to review correct interpretation and assessments of skin breakdown. Wound books on floor for staff reference.
• Through the use of emails education was sent to all staff hospital wide on the importance of utilizing draw sheets vs. underpads to decrease the incidence of pressure ulcers.
• Educating patients on the importance of being repositioned in bed to decrease the incidence of skin breakdown.
• Assessing nutritional status – In-services and unit meetings to educate staff on the correct use of dietary consults to help prevent skin breakdown.
• Presently researching the benefits of using a turning clock for all patients.

How are we sustaining this?
• Presently researching the benefits of using a turning clock for all patients.