Title of project
Scott Triggers: A Screening Tool for Pressure Ulcer Prevention in Surgical Patients

Members of the project team:
From Health-First Cape Canaveral Hospital
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Background information related to problem identification:
Search of the literature revealed that Braden scale was not a reliable tool for surgical patients. Our team wanted to find or develop a tool that would be useful in the surgical population for identifying patients who were at risk for pressure ulcer development. All patients in the OR are at some risk and the OR team is good at positioning and padding but we wanted to find out which patients were at highest risk and what interventions we could do that would be Best Practice.

Objectives of the project:
1. Implement a tool that would identify patients at high risk for Pressure Ulcer Development.
2. Implement some innovative interventions that would prevent pressure ulcers.
3. Increase staff awareness of the potential for pressure ulcer development and enlist their help in identification of patients who are at risk for Pressure Ulcer Development.

Process of implementation:
Staff assessment of patient’s skin status begins in Presurgical evaluation, continues on day of admission in Preop area, is followed in the Intraop arena and again in PACU. Braden scale isn’t a reliable tool in the perioperative arena.
Search for tool, tool found, staff education, incorporation of tool into electronic medical record, hand-off communication of high risk patients when transferring patient to inpatient area, and communication of patients to wound care & ostomy nurse.

Statement of successful practice:
We now have a tool to identify patients at high risk for pressure ulcer development that is validated. There is heightened awareness of patients who are at risk for pressure ulcers and this information is included in our hand-off communication when patients are transferred. We use gel surface pads on our OR tables and heel offloading devices on our fractured hip patients.

Implications for advancing the practice of perianesthesia nursing:
We are currently doing a study of identified patients, comparing to Braden scale, and outcomes of skin status.