SKIN ASSESSMENT RE-EDUCATION
Team Leader: Sandra Filla, BSN, CCRN, CPAN
Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO
Team Member: Colleen Miller, BSN

Purpose: Skin breakdown during the hospital course is an ongoing issue. Reimbursements for skin breakdown treatments are decreasing, especially if it is found that the breakdown occurred during the hospital stay. Pre/Postoperative assessment is key to tracking the origins of the breakdown and initiating treatment as early as possible.

Description: After reviewing hospital policies regarding skin breakdown, staff performed roving in-services to all nursing personnel reviewing minimum documentation requirements. These requirements include: 1) full body assessment documented pre and post operatively on all patients. The post-op assessment should note findings on all pressure points. Positioning on the OR table should be taken into consideration. ie prone or lateral. 2) Any visible breakdown and any non-blanchable reddened areas must be reported to the appropriate service and an SES report filed. 3) The areas of breakdown should be noted in hand-off reports for continued follow through when leaving the PACU.

Outcome: Nursing staff is the first line for pressure sore prevention. Re-education and reminders about the importance of this has proven well received. Many staff members were not aware of the minimum requirements. Due to re-education, our computer system charting is being evaluated to make the skin documentation more user friendly and therefore has a higher likelihood for compliance.