

IMPLEMENTATION OF A PERI-OP PROCEDURAL SKIN ASSESSMENT TOOL

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The Braden scale and wound/pressure ulcer assessment tool used as standard policy for all hospital admissions, are not specific to the perioperative arena which requires a more appropriate assessment/documentation tool for our specialty areas.
- A skin-Bar form pilot study is developed as a coordinated effort among Preop, OR, and PACU as a tool to assess and document incidence of pressure ulcers or other skin issues. Skin is first assessed in Preop with further documentation noted from OR and later reassessed postop in PACU with relation to surgical site, position, or other factors.
- Education of Preop, OR and PACU nurses by team leaders on use of skin-Bar form prior to start of pilot.

OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT:

- Pilot study of tool to determine function, ease of assessment and documentation.
- To show areas at risk to develop pressure ulcers.
- To promote accurate reports of potential or actual skin issues among nurses within the perioperative area and to patient units at time of transfer.
- To promote follow up to physician and wound care nurse if any skin issues identified.

PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

- Initial two week study started on 3/1/2011 is continued until 3/30/2011.
- Forms collected by wound nurse from medical records and floors.
- Study and evaluation of use of tool with input from team leaders, staff, wound nurse, and Pressure Ulcer Prevention Committee.
- Skin-Bar form revised to Peri-op Procedural Skin Assessment Tool becomes required documentation on 9/21/2011.

STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE:

- Revised form creates greater acceptance, ease of documentation.
- Form extended to use of perioperative patients in GI and cardiac cath lab.
- Incidences of POA pressure ulcers identified.
- No evidence of pressure ulcers due to surgical procedures.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSES:

- Greater knowledge of skin care assessment.
- Use of nursing practice to identify and improve patient care.