

HOW TO PROTECT OUR LARGEST ORGAN: PERIOPERATIVE SKIN IMPAIRMENT INITIATIVE

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Background Information: Prevention and identification of patients' skin integrity and measures to promote skin integrity in the perioperative setting is imperative for patient safety. Significant government guidelines, financial implications and national nursing initiatives assist in measuring and improving patient outcomes. An institutional initiative was implemented to reduce the incidence of hospital acquired pressure ulcers and improve nursing competency on pressure ulcer prevention through education. The perioperative setting focused on improving nursing care related to skin impairment, documentation, and decrease skin impairment incidences.

Objectives of Project:

- Evaluate nursing knowledge of patient skin integrity in the perioperative area and the incidence rate of hospital acquired vs present on admission.
- Increase nursing documentation of skin integrity and patient education by at least 10% and maintain at least 90% compliance in nursing competency in the perioperative area.
- Monitor the monthly compliance and incidence rate of reported skin integrity.
- Improve early recognition of pre-existing skin impairments in the Pre-Op area.
- Identification of barriers in the clinical setting to performing skin integrity assessments, documentation and skin integrity prevention.

Process of Implementation: The skin initiative began in December 2016 with the development of unit based registered nurse and patient care technician skin champions from within the PACU environment. The skin champions attended a training class which included didactic teaching, visual aids, and a PowerPoint presentation. All nursing staff were required to complete online modules specific to skin integrity identification and care. Skin champions educated and re-educated staff about documentation related to pressure ulcers and significant events. The education included a PowerPoint presentation, hands on demonstration, and learner verification of the education. In addition, the skin champions assisted with the institution's initiation of a 2 RN co-signature documentation for all patients upon admission and transfers.

Statement of Successful Practice: Collaboration among multidisciplinary groups drastically improved clinical nursing teams' awareness and interventions related to skin integrity. Evaluation of skin integrity in the perioperative setting included monthly audits of: patient education, documentation of preexisting impairments, documentation of hospital acquired impairments and verification of repositioning. Each month, the audits were reviewed and teaching points were reviewed based on the areas with less than 90% compliance. Patient education and care plan documentation improved from 80% in December 2016 to 95% in July

2017. Evidence of a 2 RN Co-sign significantly improved from 68% in January 2017 to 93% in July 2017.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Identifying skin champions, providing extensive education related to skin integrity, collaborating with multidisciplinary teams and obtaining monthly audits can improve early recognition, documentation and interventions related to skin integrity. Diligence in regards to proper skin integrity education that include nursing assessment, documentation, and evaluation in the perioperative area can lead to improved patient outcomes. Communication and documentation related to pressure ulcers can decrease the risk of hospital-acquired pressure ulcers and prevent worsening of pre-existing pressure ulcers in the operating room.