

## **Improving Skin Assessment Documentation in EMR on Inpatients Coming to Preop to Prevent Perioperative Pressure Injuries**

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**Abstract Background Information:** It has been shown that accurate and comprehensive documentation in EHRs facilitates timely identification, prevention, and management of pressure injuries in surgical patients. Perioperative services have seen inpatients arrive to preop from the floor with wounds that have either not been documented or not documented correctly in EPIC. We want to create a process to consistently assess surgical patients from head to toe with a two-RN skin assessment to ensure that new pressure injuries are not occurring before, during or after the OR.

**Objectives of Project:** This project's goal is to ensure inpatients are being assessed thoroughly with a two-RN skin assessment when arriving for surgery from inpatient areas. We want to improve early recognition of pre-existing skin impairments in the pre-op area. Through this initiative we will increase clinical nursing teams' awareness of skin integrity and improve patient outcomes.

**Process of Implementation:** We collected baseline data in collaboration with our Perioperative IS department to look at inpatients for first start cases for specific OR departments to see if skin assessments were being documented. Education was provided for all staff members (RNs, PCTs, management) about the importance of early recognition of pre-existing skin impairments, skin integrity, and correct place to document two-RN skin assessment. Project members will audit and collect data of at least 10 audits/week for 12 weeks (about 3 months) on specific patient OR populations of inpatients.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** Education given to staff members increased awareness about skin integrity and where to document. Our baseline data was 18% for documenting 2 RN skin assessment and increased to 83% throughout July on the specific OR populations of first start cases on inpatients.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** The preop department lacked a skin documentation process for inpatients for a full head to toe two-RN skin assessment. We lacked accurate and comprehensive documentation of skin integrity prior to surgery. Our team created education, awareness, and how to properly document to help with early detection, prevention, and opportunities for intervention prior to surgery.