

## **Let's Get Skin-timate, with Skin Documentation**

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**Abstract Background Information:** Accurate and timely skin assessments in the perioperative setting are essential in preventing hospital-acquired pressure injuries. In the outpatient surgery department, inconsistent screening and documentation of skin assessments were identified.

**Objectives of Project:** The objective of the project was to increase compliance with documented skin assessments on all patients coming in through the outpatient surgical service area. The team set a SMART goal to ensure skin assessments were performed and charted at least 95% of the time.

**Process of Implementation:** Current processes were reviewed and identification of areas needing improvement/changes. Wound Care was consulted to provide training and guidance on proper documentation of skin assessment. Implementation of a standardized charting method in the electronic health record (EMR), along with a uniform list of patient screening questions, would ensure consistency in how skin assessments were performed and documented. Staff were educated on the changes implemented, with the expectation that skin assessments will be done on all patients utilizing the screening tool, and that all documentation of wounds from previous admissions would be removed from the current chart, including the Avatar.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** Following implementation, there was a measurable increase in the frequency and accuracy of skin assessment documentation. Compliance rates exceeded the SMART goal, demonstrating the success of the standardized processes and collaborative approach. There is a plan in place for outpatient nurses to get Rovers to aid in proper skin documentation, including wound pictures that will be uploaded to the chart.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** This initiative highlights the importance of frontline engagement and multidisciplinary collaboration in advancing nursing practices. The project serves as a model for other surgical services aiming to improve documentation practices and prevent avoidable complications. This project fostered a culture that prioritizes thorough skin assessments and proactive patient care. Plans are in place to implement the operating room nurse and the post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) nurse to perform a skin assessment upon arrival to PACU. Implementation of Rovers, hand-held computer phones, will be utilized to document and upload pictures of wounds to the EMR.