

Four Eyes are Better Than Two

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Background Information: Pressure injuries are hazardous and costly to manage. Patients developing hospital acquired pressure injuries (HAPIs) commonly face increased length of stays (LOS) and estimated annual national costs stretching up to \$11.6 billion (Betts & Makic, 2021). Historically, skin assessments were perceived to be performed only within the inpatient milieu. Due to increased post-op wait times and community acquired pressure injuries (CAPIs), we were motivated to capture data and create a HAPI prevention protocol. With PreOp, PACU, and OR collaboration, we decided to measure the frequency of pressure injuries identified within the organization's perioperative departments and implement a process to decrease skin injuries.

Objectives of Project: To reduce the number of perioperative HAPIs by 25% by the end of fiscal year 2022 as evidenced by the organization's weekly pressure injury report.

Process of Implementation: In August 2022, we began Phase I which included nurse education, two RN skin assessments, and the application of a Mepilex dressing to the sacral region for all patients. Pressure Ulcer Prevention (PUP) Stars for each phase of perioperative care were established, and their role was to review HAPI reports and perform randomized chart audits for compliance of two RN skin assessments. Collaboration amongst the operating room nurses, leadership, the unit supply staff, and the executive information service team were essential. In February 2023, Phase II began by utilizing criteria via Scott Triggers and PRAMS skin assessment tools involving extrinsic and intrinsic factors.

Statement of Successful Practice: In FY22, there were a reported 26 pressure injuries in the 24-hour preop/postop unit and 85 injuries in the combined six perioperative departments. Post-implementation, in August 2022, skin injuries diminished in the 24-hour PreOp/PACU unit by 73% to 7 skin injuries for FY23. The combined data for all perioperative areas went down 24% to 65 skin injuries.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Perianesthesia nurses will be able to identify and maintain best practices for perioperative patients at risk for skin injury by utilizing the two RN skin assessment approach. With guidance from best practice literature, we will continue to reduce perioperative skin injuries.