

## Background

Managing pressure injuries are hazardous and costly. Patients developing hospital acquired pressure injuries (HAPIs) commonly face increased length of stays (LOS), with annual national costs exceeding \$11.6 billion. 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 the PreOp, PACU, and OR collaborating, we initiated measurements on the frequency of pressure injuries identified within the perioperative department and implemented a process to decrease skin injuries.

## Objective

Reduce the number of perioperative HAPIs by 25% by the end of fiscal year 2023, as evidenced by the Cedars-Sinai weekly HAPI report.

**Two RN Skin Assessment**

- Primary RN and 2nd RN**
  - 2nd RN can be a PUP Star, Charge RN, ANM, NPD, or CNS
  - Two RNs should agree on staging of any pressure injuries found
  - Primary RN provides treatment, prevention interventions, documents and notifies leadership of findings
- Check the front and back of the body, all bony prominences, including skin folds**
- Assess skin/soft tissue under and around tubing and all medical devices**
  - (E.g., SCDs, splints, O2 tubing, masks, NGT, Foley, rectal tube, trach flange, ET tube, pulse-ox)
  - Assess skin under devices as soon as the Do Not Remove/Reposition order is discontinued

**Buttock Aveter Locations**

- Iliac Crest
- Sacrum
- Coccyx
- Buttock
- Greater Trochanter
- Ischial Tuberosity

\* Charge RN is accountable for ensuring the Two RN skin assessment has been completed

Clinical Support Programs—Department of Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nursing  
Updated 12-2023

## Implementation

- August 2022, two RN skin assessments for all perioperative patients, along with 5-layer foam dressing application to the sacral region, and areas of forecasted or visible skin breakdown.
- Education was provided to perioperative nurses on pressure injury prevention, pressure points, and 5-layer colloid dressing placement.
- Pressure Ulcer Prevention (PUP) Stars were identified for all perioperative areas.
- PUP Stars reviewed and investigated weekly HAPI reports, and performed random, weekly chart audits for compliance of the two RN skin assessments.
- Collaborated with the executive information service team to support the upgrade for two RN skin documentation within Epic software.
- Collaborated with staff, leadership, and the central supply department for assurance of adequate supply of the 5-layer colloid dressings.
- At day 30, the test of change was implemented throughout all six perioperative areas.
- February 2023, Phase II evolved by targeting specific screening criteria, utilizing the Perioperative Risk Assessment Measure for Skin (PRAMS) and Scott Triggers skin assessment tools.

## Fiscal Year 2022

## Fiscal Year 2024

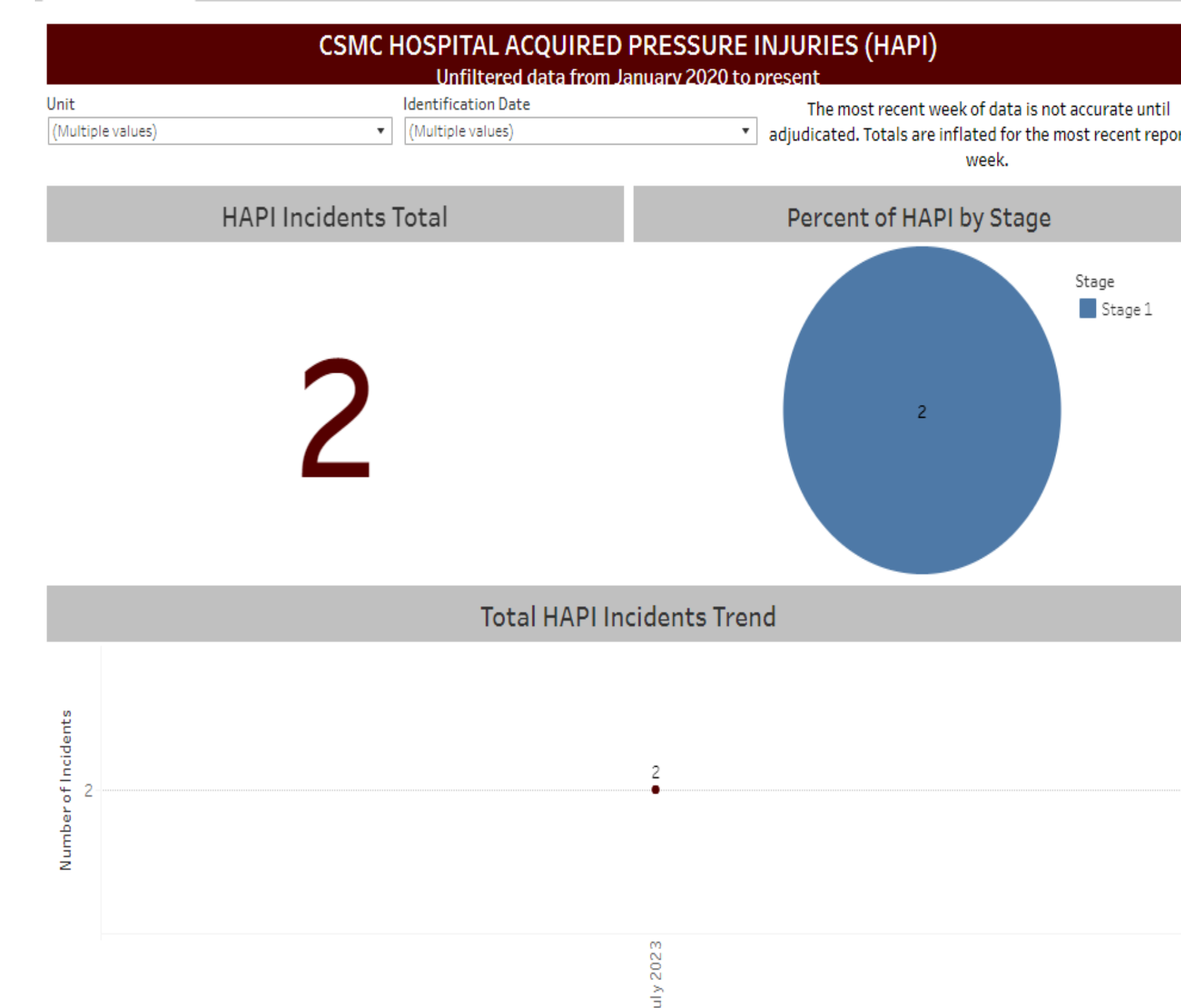
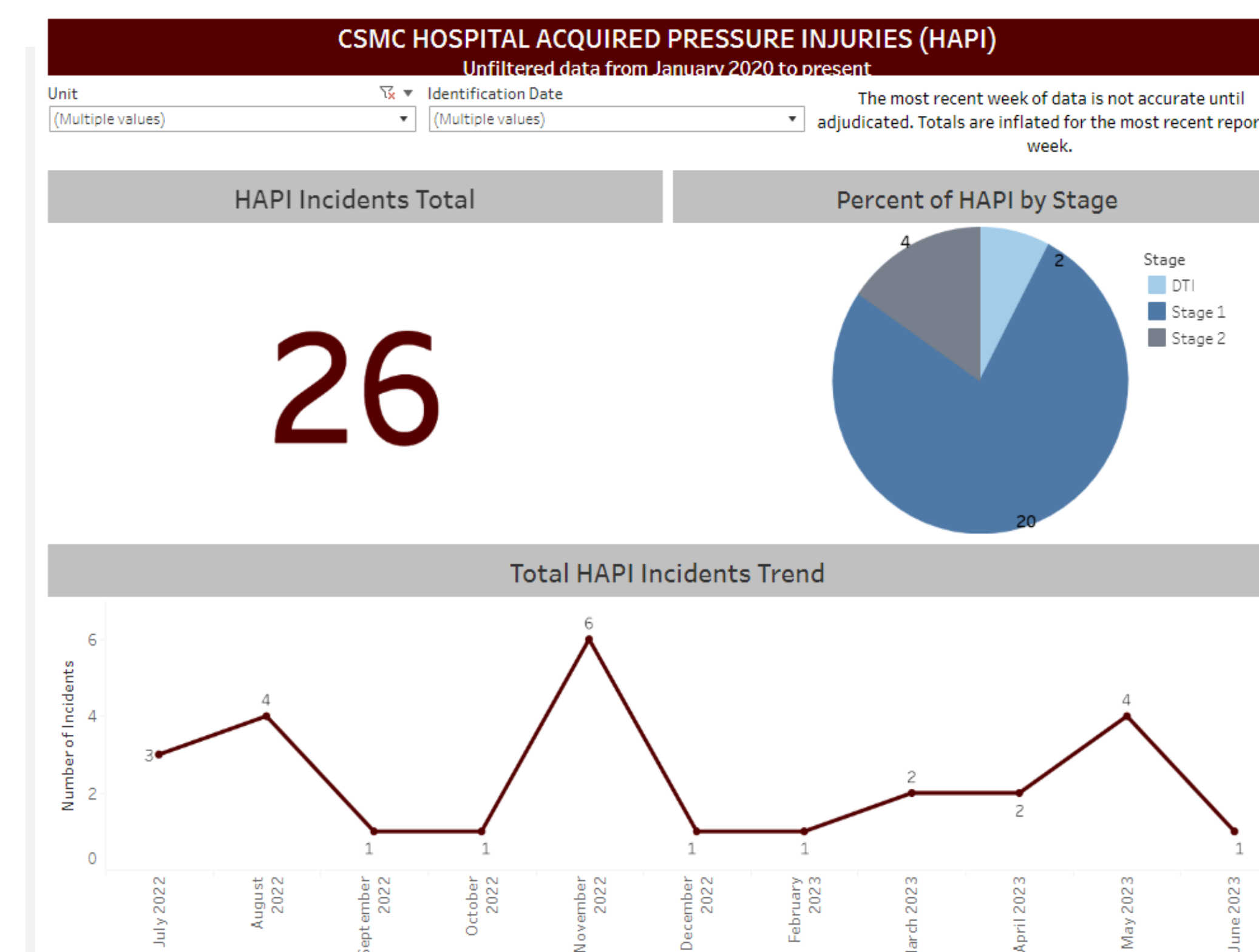
**Peri-Op Pressure Injury Prevention Guide**

**Table Position:** Lateral/Side Lying

**Areas at Risk:**

- Shoulder
- Axilla
- Hip
- Knee
- Ankle
- Feet
- Side of Face/Ear
- Dependent areas (skin on skin)

**Dressing Key:** = Mepilex® Border Sacrum = Mepilex® Border 6 x 6 = Mepilex® Border Post-Op



**Peri-Op Pressure Injury Prevention Guide**

**Table Position:** Supine/Reverse

**Areas at Risk:**

- Occiput
- Scapula
- Arms/Elbows
- Spine
- Sacrum/Coccyx
- Heels

**Dressing Key:** = Mepilex® Border Sacrum = Mepilex® Border 6 x 6 = Mepilex® Border Post-Op



Cedars-Sinai Perioperative PUP Stars

## Statement of Successful Practice

In FY22, there were 26 reported pressure injuries in the 24-hour PreOp/PACU unit, and 85 injuries in all six perioperative departments combined. In August 2022, Post-implementation, the number of skin injuries decreased in the 24-hour PreOp/PACU unit by 73%, to 7 skin injuries for FY23. As Q4 of FY24 approaches, there are currently 2 reported HAPIs. In FY23, combined data for all perioperative areas decreased by a total of 24%, to 65 skin injuries.

## References

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