Four Eyes are Better than Two
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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.

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.

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