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Initiating a Skin-Care Bundle In the Emergency Department to Decrease Hospital-Acquired Pressure Injuries in Geriatric Patients

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BACKGROUND

- Adults 65 and older comprise 15.2% of the U.S. population and 17.9% of Emergency Department visits.
- With aging, older adults experience physiologic changes to their skin, including thinning and loss of elasticity which impairs healing and leads to easier damage.
- In the U.S., 2.5 million individuals develop Pressure Injuries and cause 60,000 deaths annually.
- Hospital-Acquired Pressure Injuries in the United States cost \$26.8 billion annually, over \$10,000 per patient, and increase the length of stay by greater than four days.

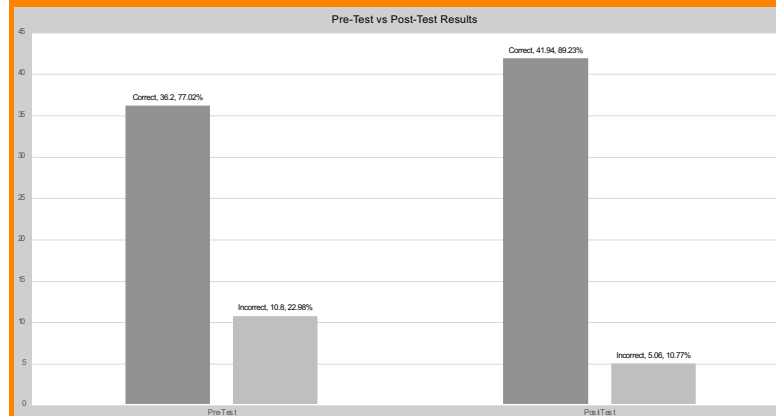
LOCAL PROBLEM

- This project occurred in a 27-bed ED, which is Geriatric Emergency Department Accredited, in a metropolitan city in the southeastern United States where patients 65 and older make up about 40% of the patient volume annually.
- Pressure Injuries can begin to develop within two hours, and the average length of stay in this Emergency department was longer than the national average of 187 minutes.
- This project aimed to reduce the amount of hospital-acquired pressure injuries by increasing skin risk assessments and use of the skin bundle through education of healthcare professionals, as evidenced by a 10% increase in charting compliance in adults ages 65 and older in the Emergency Department.

METHODS

- The Evidence-Based Practice Improvement model was used to implement this evidence-based practice scholarly project.
- The literature review strongly recommended using pre-tests and post-tests with traditional classroom learning utilizing PowerPoint presentation to increase knowledge of pressure injury prevention and documentation adherence.

The use of pre-tests and post-tests in combination with traditional classroom learning utilizing PowerPoint increased knowledge of Pressure Injury prevention in Emergency Department nurses.



INTERVENTIONS

- 51 Emergency Department nurses completed the Pieper Pressure Ulcer Knowledge pre-test
- Emergency Department Nurses were educated about pressure injury staging, preventions, interventions, and Braden Skin Integrity Scale using classroom learning utilizing PowerPoint presentation
- Completed the same Pieper Pressure Ulcer Knowledge post-test to assess knowledge levels

RESULTS

- The mean number of incorrect answers significantly decreased from 10.8 to 5.06.
- There was a statistically significant decrease in wrong answers from the pre-test to the post-test, $t(50) = 11.692, p < 0.001$, and an increase in knowledge levels post education.

CONCLUSIONS

- The use of pre-tests and post-tests in combination with traditional classroom learning utilizing PowerPoint increased knowledge of Pressure Injury prevention.
- Implications for practice
 - Identify at-risk patients earlier in care
 - Prioritize preventative care
 - Decrease length of stay
 - Prevent unnecessary and costly pressure injuries
- Sustainability
 - Cost-effective
 - Evidence-based skin intervention for patients 65 and older
- Next steps
 - Measure and monitor charting adherence of Braden Skin Integrity Scale and skin interventions