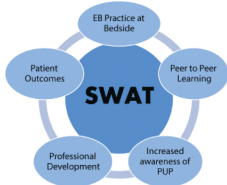


# Development of a Skin Care Champion Program to Reduce Hospital Acquired Pressure Ulcers

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## PURPOSE:

To determine whether the implementation of a skin care champion team would significantly reduce our hospital acquired pressure ulcer rate and improve patient outcomes related to skin and wound care. In October 2014 our quarterly pressure ulcer survey reflected a 3.19% hospital acquired pressure ulcer (HAPU) rate (our target goal was 1.25% or less). In response an action plan was developed by nursing leadership and the WOC nurse that included an increase in our pressure ulcer surveillance from quarterly to monthly and the development of a unit based skin care champion team. The champions decided on the team name “SWAT” for **Skin Wound Assessment Team** and set a goal of reducing HAPU by 50% this year.



## METHODS:

- **RN representatives**
- **Commitment to serve**
- **Education**
- **Competency in pressure ulcer survey/data collection**

RN representatives from each nursing unit were chosen and attended a 6 hour skin/wound care workshop. Each SWAT member signed a commitment to serve agreement outlining expectations for promoting pressure ulcer prevention and role model skin care practices consistent with hospital guidelines. SWAT met monthly to conduct the hospital wide pressure ulcer survey, analyze results and develop an action plan based on survey results followed by education presented by the WOC nurse. Topics included:

- **Pressure ulcer prevention**
- **Skin/wound care**
- **Products and documentation**

SWAT members were responsible for communicating recommendations and education to their unit peers via staff meetings and bulletin board postings.

## OUTCOMES:

Improvement was measured by monthly prevalence studies, daily occurrence reporting and chart reviews. We reduced our HAPU occurrence by 50% within the first 6 months of inception and have sustained this result for the year. The SWAT members were able to positively influence the quality of care by role modeling evidence based skin care practices, increasing awareness through education and supporting practice changes to ensure best outcomes.

