

Back to the Basics: WOC Nurses Quality Initiative to Improve Accuracy of Staging Pressure Injuries

Jennifer Bart, MSN, BSN, CWOCN - Project Leader

Aimee Sheddin, BSN, CWOCN, CFCN

Cearie Balkcom, BSN, CWOCN

TOPIC

- Every Registered Nurse learned how to stage pressure injuries according to the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) guidelines in their nursing school curriculum.¹
- Applying that knowledge in everyday practice, on a consistent basis, was found to be problematic for the nurses at UF Health Shands, an 892-bed, academic hospital in Gainesville, Florida.
- This is not an unique issue for UF Health Shands.
 - One study found the accuracy rate of the average, nonexpert clinician (eg, nurse, physical therapist, physician) to correctly stage pressure injuries to range from 23% to 58%.²
- Nurses faced two main challenges:
 - Erroneously staging wounds that were not caused by pressure.
 - Classifying wounds caused by pressure incorrectly.
- Facility acquired pressure injuries have ominous implications for the patient and the facility.³
 - Increased patient morbidity
 - Increased medical costs
 - Pain & suffering
 - Erroneous benchmarking
 - Reimbursement discrepancies
 - Legal issues
- It is considered an expectation and within the scope of practice for Registered Nurses to be able to accurately identify wounds and correctly stage wounds caused by pressure.⁴

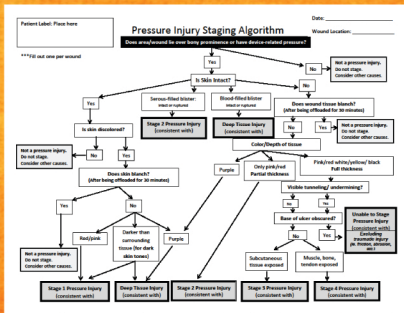
PURPOSE / GOAL

- The purpose of this project was to develop a reliable tool for the nurses to utilize in accurately identifying and staging pressure injuries.
 - Allowing for prompt and effective treatment and plan of care
 - Attainment of accurate Pressure Injury Prevalence data for benchmarking purposes
 - Accurate identification for appropriate reimbursement from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- WOC nurses goal was to go back to the basics and retrain the nurses to correctly identify and stage pressure injuries with an accuracy rate of at least 90%.

DESIGN

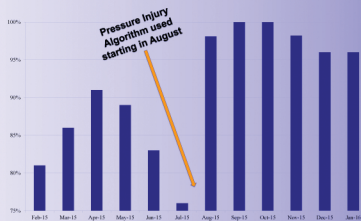
- Pressure Injury Algorithm developed by WOC nurses
 - Algorithm trialed on 10 patients with wounds on a unit
 - Staff nurse, specially trained unit champion, and the WOC nurses independently used Algorithm to identify and stage wounds.
 - Algorithm was modified based on group consensus
- Algorithm trialed facility-wide
 - Unit champions used Algorithm during monthly prevalence for 6 months.
 - WOC nurses verified accuracy of wound identification and staging
 - Algorithm modified to exclude traumatic injuries to further increase accuracy of staging
- Accuracy rate of wound identification and staging was compared for 6 months before and after introduction of the Algorithm.

PRESSURE INJURY ALGORITHM



RESULTS

Accuracy Rate for Pressure Injury Staging



OUTCOMES

- Unit champions improved the accuracy rate of staging pressure injuries by using the Pressure Injury Algorithm.
- Average rate of improvement increased by 14%.
- Average accuracy rate for the 6 months after Algorithm was introduced was 98%.
- The Pressure Injury Algorithm is an effective tool for nurses to correctly and accurately identify and stage pressure injuries.
- Due to the effectiveness of this tool, the Algorithm will be incorporated into the electronic medical record for all nurses to use at this facility.

REFERENCES

- NPUAP Pressure Injury Stages | The National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel - NPUAP. (n.d.). Retrieved June 10, 2016, from <http://www.npuap.org/resources/educational-and-clinical-resources/home-pressure-injury-stages/>
- Young D, Shen J, Estrocho N, Landers M. Financial impact of improved pressure ulcer staging in the acute hospital with use of a new tool, the NE1 Wound Assessment Tool. *Advances in Skin & Wound Care Journal*. April 2012;25(4): 156-160.
- National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel and Pan Pacific Pressure Injury Alliance. Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers. *Clinical Practice Guideline*. Emily Hensler (Ed.). Cambridge MA: Elsevier; 2014.
- Patton RM. Is Diagnosis of Pressure Ulcers within an RN's Scope of Practice? *American Nurse Today*. 2010. Vol 5(1): 20.