Development and Testing of a Tool to Measure Nurses' Use of the Pressure Ulcer Log
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Problem:
Pressure ulcers are a major challenge in acute care and require vigilant, organized care. Our hospital and its Hospital Acquired Pressure Ulcer Group developed a Pressure Ulcer Log (PUL) for recording incidence, status, and treatment of pressure ulcers in hospitalized patients.

Evidence:
Pressure ulcers prevention is the focus of national hospital improvement initiatives. South Miami Hospital initiated steps to address this safety issue. One of these steps was development and use of a Pressure Ulcer Log (PUL). An evaluation of the reception and usefulness of this log for facilitating nurses's detection of pressure ulcers was needed.

Strategy:
The purpose of this study was to develop an instrument that measured the nurses' reception and usage of the PUL on clinical units and to determine if PUL use was related to unit expectations and nurses' educational background and experience. The study was designed as an instrument development pilot study. A ten item questionnaire, "Evaluation of the Pressure Log", focused on the user friendliness of the Pressure Ulcer Log, the assignment and logistics of completing the Log, and effectiveness of use to detect pressure ulcers.

Practice Change:
Expectations of use of the PUL as a tool in detection of pressure ulcers on nursing units was positively reinforced by the results of this study. Nursing units continue to use the Pressure Ulcer Log.

Evaluation:
The study findings revealed nurses felt the PUL was user friendly and practices and expectations on each unit were significantly related to PUL use. Characteristics of the nurses were not related to PUL use.

Results:
The results of this study are being shared with the clinical nursing staff and leadership. The findings provide evidence for deciding additions or changes in practices on each unit for prevention and early detection of pressure ulcers.

Bibliography: