Overcoming Barriers to Bedside Implementation of EBP Pressure Ulcer Prevention
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Problem
Despite expert guidance and use of evidence based guidelines to prevent pressure ulcers, injuries continue to occur.

Evidence
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) lists pressure ulcers as avoidable complications of hospitalization. According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project between 1993 and 2006 the total number of hospitalizations with a secondary diagnosis of pressure ulcer increased by 80%. The CDC National Center for Health Statistics Data Brief, Number 14, February 2009 reported that in 2004 about 159,000 current nursing home residents (11%) had pressure ulcers.

Strategy
A nursing specialist partnered with four hospitals to examine existing PUPPS and identify gaps/barriers that interfere with adherence to the organization’s prevention protocols. Through “town hall” meetings hospital staff who provides patient care offered insights to practice patterns. Additional data was gathered through observation of staff practices and a staff survey regarding repositioning practices. These data provided the foundation for the development of action plans.

Practice Change
Physicians recruited to promote PUP education to peers
Education about PUPP expanded beyond nursing
Communication of risk status added to all handoff communications
Nurses and nurse assistants empowered to lead unit-based Initiatives.
Purchase of mattresses and transfer devices
Improved cost effective usage of skin care products

Evaluation
Quarterly NDNQI Data Collection
Adherence rates with repositioning schedules
Number of MDs who complete PUPP education
Pre and post project supply costs

Results
Each hospital system is below national rates.
Follow up surveys of repositioning schedules are pending.
Measurable increase in physician participation.
Cost reduction of skin products with increase in appropriate use.
Recommendations
Develop and expand membership of unit-based skin care teams
Expand education on PUPP and correct use of supplies.
Include PU risk status in all handoff communications

Lessons Learned
All healthcare providers are not aware of PUPP.
Handoffs do not include risk assessment information.

Bibliography