

Introduction

St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville, FL was chosen as an Ascension Health 'alpha site' for the development of a best practice model to eliminate facility acquired pressure ulcers. The initiative included the creation of the SKIN Bundle™ (Selection of appropriate surfaces, Keep patients moving, Incontinence management, Nutrition & Hydration)¹.

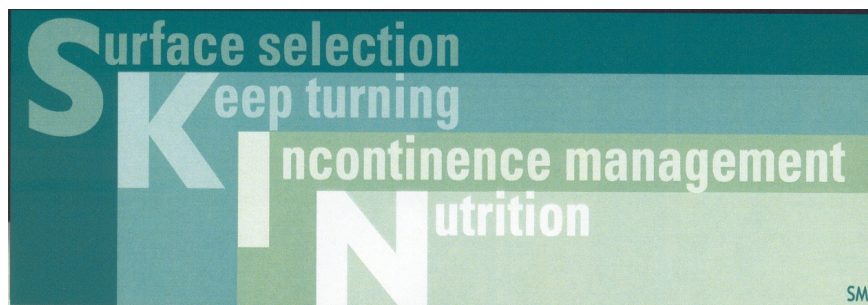
Significance

The Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nurses (WOCN) association estimates that more than 1 million persons in the United States develop pressure ulcers every year. Incidence estimates range from 0.4% to 38% for patients in acute care facilities. Approximately 50% of these pressure ulcers will develop during hospitalization¹.

Strategy and Implementation

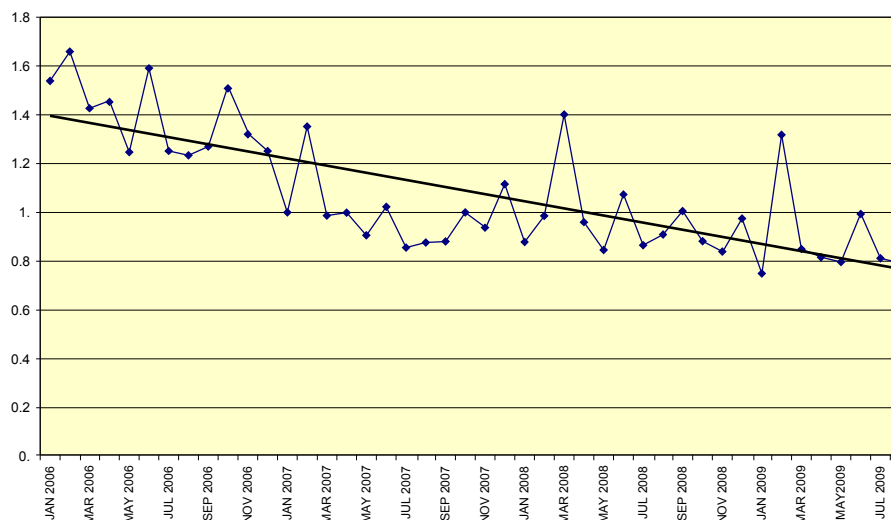
The strategy to eliminate preventable pressure ulcers began with an expert meeting of WOCN's, educators, Nursing leadership, pharmacists, dieticians and P.I. to develop a 'best practice' prevention model. Literature and patient chart reviews were conducted to determine patients at highest risk for pressure ulcer development. Equipment and product reviews were conducted concurrently. Nutritional standing orders were approved by the Medical Executive Committee. Once the prevention model was completed, a standard of care was written and the SKIN Bundle was developed and implemented for all patients with Braden scores of 18 or less. Education consisted of brief presentations, posters, assessment pocket tools, just in time training at the bedside. SKIN champions were selected for each of the units. A timeline was developed for rollout to all units, then spread throughout Ascension Health at a Nursing summit. A weekly 'SKIN' operations meeting consisting of Executive and Unit based leadership reviews any hospital acquired pressure related injury.

The SKIN Bundle™

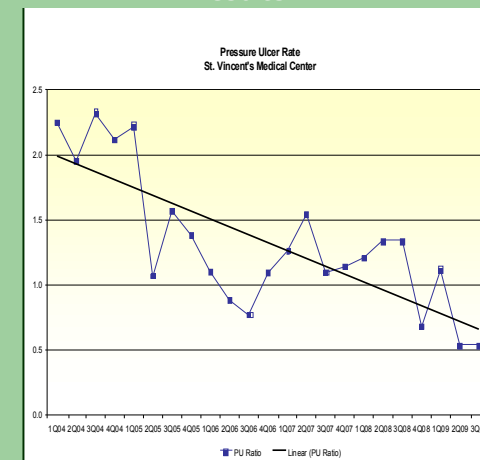


Results

Ascension Health Pressure Ulcer Rate
(per thousand patient days)



Results



Conclusions

The pride of practice in a nursing driven, successful innovation and the resulting staff empowerment at the alpha site influenced a profound culture change. Nursing leadership has maintained this culture change through the use of weekly operations meetings that now include review of all nursing driven outcomes. Quarterly prevalence and annual incidence of pressure ulcers decreased from 5.7% to less than 1% at the Alpha site from December 2004 through February 2006 and remains less than 1% to date. Reduction of Stage 3 injury to less than 4 total since 2004 and no Stage 4's at the alpha site since 2004. Beginning in 2006 all of Ascension Health Nursing was reporting on pressure ulcer rates per 1000 patient days.

References

¹Gibbons, W., Shanks, H., Kleinhelter, P., & Jones, P. (2006). Eliminating facility acquired pressure ulcers in Ascension Health. *Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Safety*, 32(9), 488-496.

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