



Langone Medical Center



# PERIOPERATIVE WRIST BAND ALERT PROGRAM

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# Significance of the Wristband Alert Program :

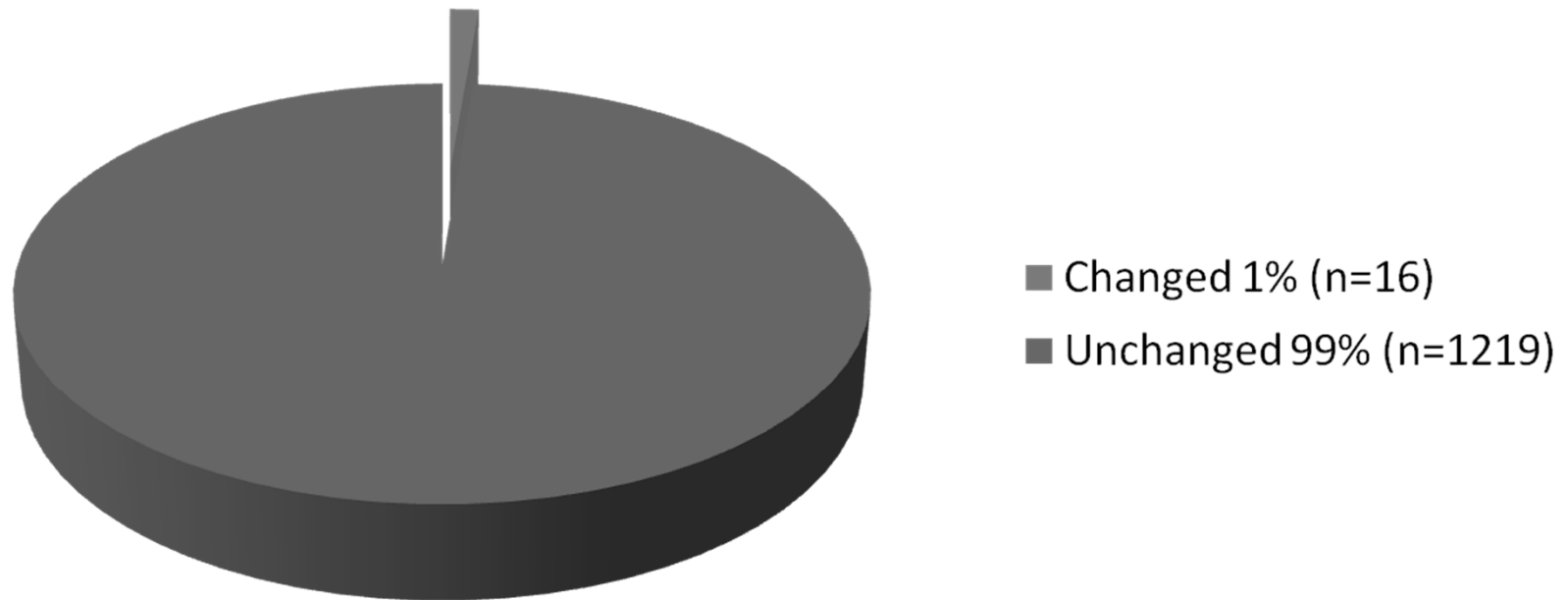
- Pressure ulcers may develop 72 hours post op, a significant time after discharge from the O.R.
- The program assists with identifying pressure points most at risk for development of HAPUs related to surgical positioning.
- The goal is to improve care coordination of surgical patients from the perioperative setting to post-surgical care units.

# Back ground information:

- In March 2009 the Perioperative Skin Committee reviewed 1235 charts for documented skin changes at the time of discharge from the OR.
  - 16 patients had documented skin changes on discharge from the OR ranging from blanchable redness (12), skin tears (3), blister (1)
  - 2 patients developed pressure ulcers post-op

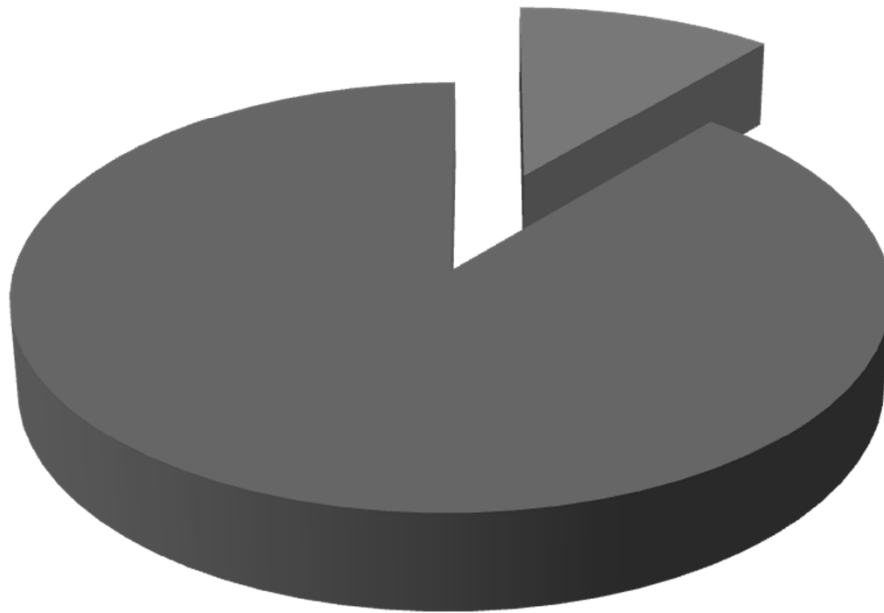
# March 2009: Post-operative Skin Survey

Patients with a documented change in skin assessment  
(non-pressure ulcer) post-operatively



# March 2009: Post-operative Skin Changes

Identified as Pressure Ulcer vs. Non Pressure Ulcer



■ Pressure Ulcer 12% (n=2)

■ Non Pressure Ulcer 88%  
(n=16)

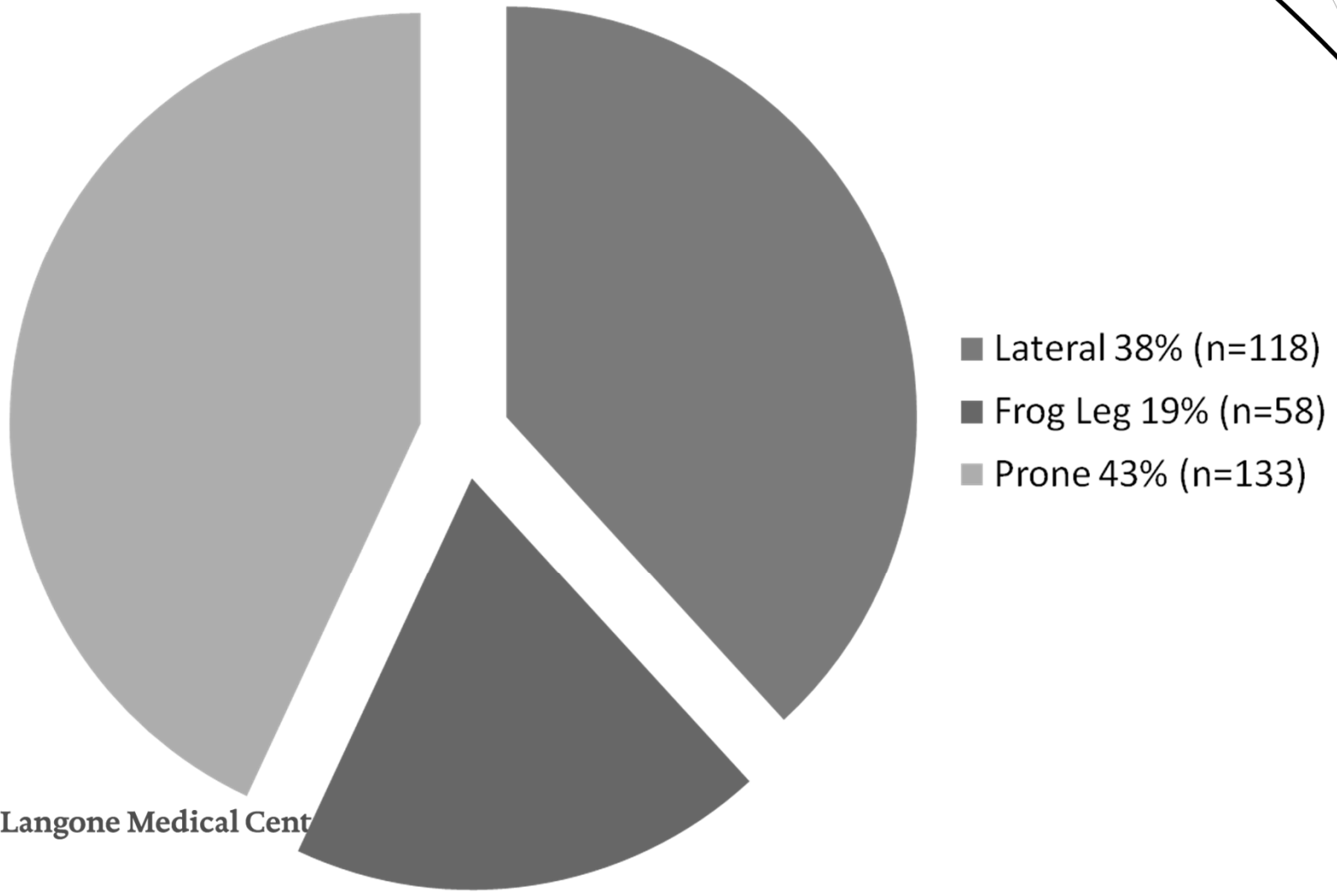
## **March 2009 Survey Outcomes**

- Because all patients with noted skin changes were in prone, lateral, or frog-leg position, the committee proposed applying a blue wristband to patients in any of these 3 positions upon discharge from OR
- Position and duration of surgery would be written on the wristbands to alert post-op caregivers of the potential for developing post-operative pressure ulcers.

# September 2009 to December 2009 Wristband Alert Pilot

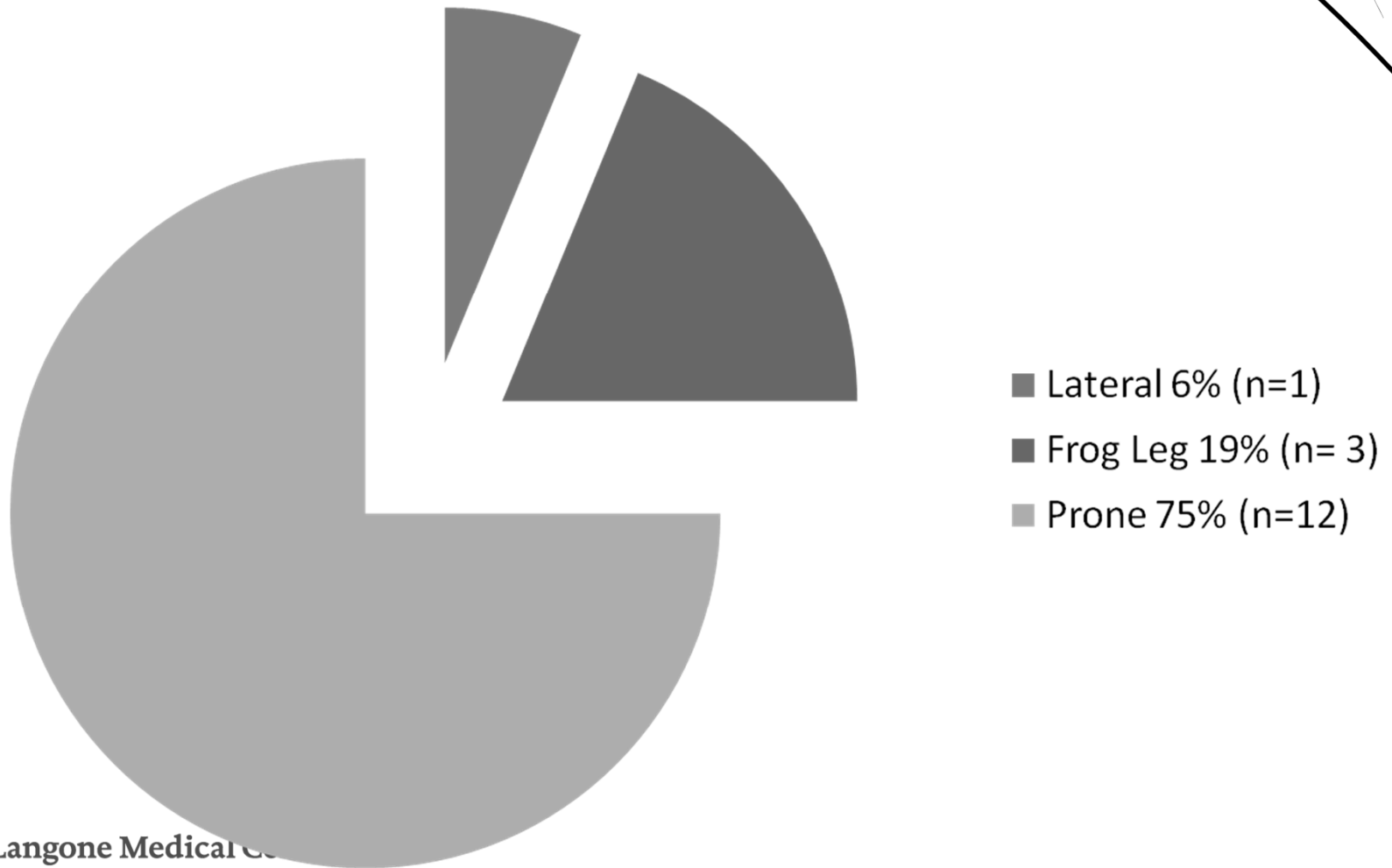
- 09/24/09: Wristband pilot commenced.
- 12/18/09: Conclusion of pilot. 309 wristbands were applied to patients
- Of the 309 patients 16 were noted to have changes at the time of the post-operative skin assessment upon discharge from the OR.

# Wristband Pilot: Positioning Data



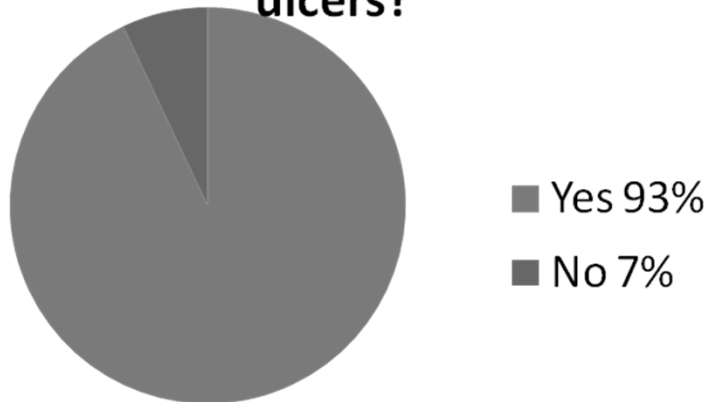


# Wristband Pilot: Skin Changes related to Position



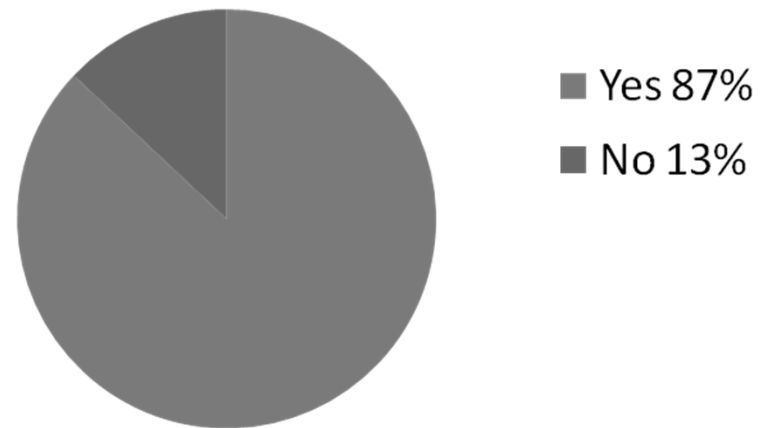
# Post-op RN feedback to Wristband Pilot Study

Is the poster helpful in informing/educating you on the different intraoperative positions & subsequent areas at risk for pressure ulcers?



Number of respondents= 114

Does the information provided on the pilot study wrist band/poster enable you to make better patient care decisions? E.g. in positioning and skin assessment of patient.



Number of respondents= 123

# Outcomes of Wrist Band Pilot

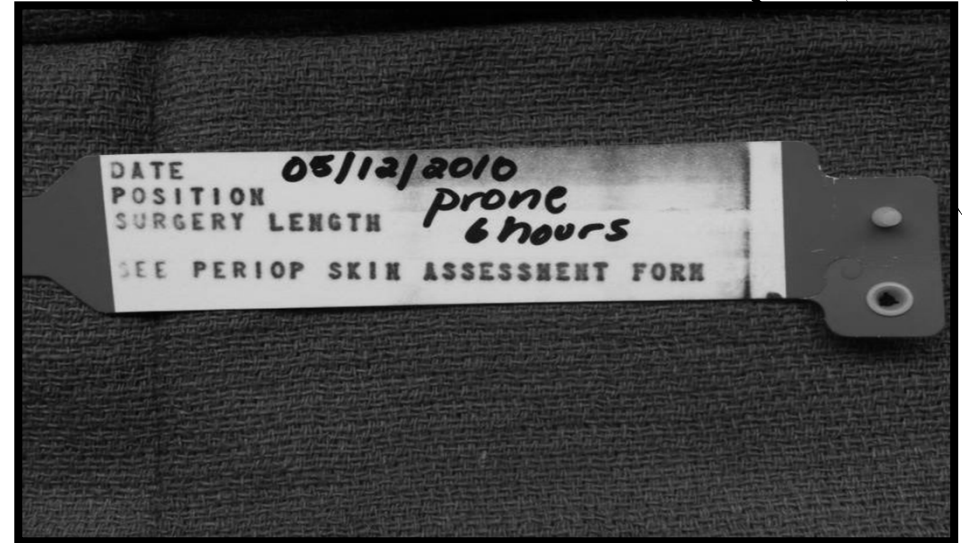
- The Perioperative Skin Care Committee established a Wrist Band Alert Program to include the application of the blue wristband to all patients positioned for more than 4 hours and any patient with an identified skin change at time of discharge from the OR

# Perioperative Wrist Band Alert Program:

- June 2010 house wide emails were sent out to all nursing staff to alert them to the Wrist Band Alert Program beginning on June 21, 2010.
- During the July 2010 Skin Care Fair a Wrist Band Alert Competency was offered to all attendants.

# Perioperative Services Wristband Alert

- Indications for wrist band application:
  - Patients who are positioned for 4 hours or more.
  - Any patient with a noted skin assessment change upon discharge from the OR.
- For information on surgical positioning please access The Perioperative Services Guide to Intraoperative Patient Positioning on The Skin and Wound Care website: Go to The Link, click on Nursing, click on Skin & Wound Care or [http://nyumc.net/nyu/include.jsp?nav=nu&url=nursing/Skin\\_Wound/index.html](http://nyumc.net/nyu/include.jsp?nav=nu&url=nursing/Skin_Wound/index.html)



## Post Operative Interventions for all positions:

- Head to toe assessment
- Complete the Braden Scale
- If breakdown is noted: stage as per NPUAP pressure staging guidelines
- Follow prescribed treatment protocol and procedure
- Follow specialty support surface protocol and procedure
- Notify MD/NP/CWOCN

# Wristband Assessment Audit

- Completed over one week (12/1/10-12/7/10)
- Sample group included the three highest risk groups (reference Medline Industries Pressure Ulcer Training)
  - Patients 62 and older
  - CV surgery
  - Ortho Surgery
- Sample size 124 patients (125 cases, one patient was a Return to OR) from the Main OR (TH-6)
- Investigated 72 hours post-op. Prior to this all our assessments only looked at the time of discharge from the OR

# Findings:

- 12 documented skin changes ranging from blanchable redness to suspected deep tissue injury/unstageable.
  - 3 changes noted at time of discharge from the OR with no evidence of further documentation of pressure ulcer development within 72 hours post-op
  - 5 changes noted within 72 hours post-op, ranging from blanchable redness to Stage IV
  - 4 changes noted more than 72 hours post-op ranging from Stage I to suspected deep tissue injury/unstageable

# Conclusion

*Feedback from the Wound and Ostomy Clinical Nurse Specialists:*

- Concerns with data collection from chart audits such as:
  - the documentation does not always match the patient
  - the PU is there but not documented
  - Staff documented PU in other areas of the chart other than the section labeled for skin assessment (flow sheets)



# Is the Wristband Program Valuable?

- Implementation of skin precautions sooner
- Education on surgical sites related to positioning for nursing staff on units
- Broader awareness
- Improve communication between staff from different areas (OR to PACU to Nursing Units)

# Periop Services Skin Care Committee Future Initiatives and Accomplishments:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Skin Care Fair: Care of the Surgical Patient
  - May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- Pressure Relieving Operating Room Table Pads have been trialed in the cardiac service. A result was 100% decrease in sacral pressure ulcers due to this new table pad.
- Perioperative Services has invested in acquiring 33 MicroFlow table pads.

# Questions ?

Thank you

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