

# Innovation of Skin Risk Assessment to Support Quality Improvement Kristina Foster MS, RN, APRN, BC, CWOCN; Lacey Bergerhofer RN, BSN, CCRN; Michele Fix, RN, MSN, NE-BC

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### Purposes

- 1. Describe Skin Integrity Risk Assessment (SIRA) developed to accurately identify pressure ulcer (PU) risk in all ages.
- 2. Demonstrate use of SIRA within electronic health record (EHR) as innovative method for PU prevention.
- 3. Include device-related pressure ulcer prevention.

# Method

- 1. No risk assessment scale (RAS) validated across lifespan necessitates use of multiple tools in hospitals with varied populations.
- 2. Current tools are paper-based. Use of EHR improves process.
- 3. Devices are a leading cause of PU in hospitalized patients, current RASs do not include this risk.

## **Strategy & Implementation**

Goals for development were to create a risk assessment tool that is:

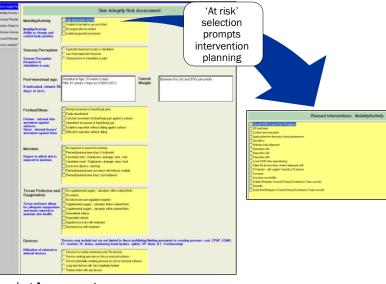
- Easy to use
- · Easy to understand
- · Suitable for all ages
- Provides nursing decision support for PU prevention

#### Features:

- 8 subscales, each rated independently
- Subscale for assessment of device risk
- Patient assessment findings are 'at risk' or 'not at risk' utilizing the nomenclature in the tool
- No need for 'scoring' or identifying a threshold for risk
- Used within the EHR to guide pressure ulcer prevention interventions through assisting documentation of assessment and care planning.
- Planned patient interventions are visible in the electronic nursing assessment documentation

### **Intuitive Workflow**

#### **Risk Assessment Form**



#### Nursing Assessment



#### Individualized Plan of Care





## **Implications for Practice**

- SIRA provides comprehensive assessment of PU risk through incorporation of previously overlooked risk factors.
- Implementation of appropriate interventions for risk factors that are not addressed with other tools.
- Possible limitation: potential for over estimation of risk since a patient may be 'at risk' in any one individual subscale.
- Research may demonstrate that over estimation is a benefit, if pressure ulcer prevention is applied universally in all patient populations with positive outcomes.

### Evaluation

- Rates of RA completion have increased since implementation.
- SIRA appears to have had a positive impact on pressure ulcer prevalence in the time since its implementation (October, 2011).
- · Research is in process to establish the reliability and validity of the tool.

# **Quality Monitoring**

