SMART ORDERS WITH EMBEDDED LOGIC ALIGN CLINICAL PRACTICE AND GUIDELINES

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PURPOSE
- Standardize criteria according to evidence-based surface guidelines
- Reassess resource allocation
- Build an electronic system guaranteeing criteria adherence through smart order development with embedded logic
- Guide clinicians to appropriate surface orders

SIGNIFICANCE
- Certain surgical procedures, wound characteristics and patient risk factors require greater pressure relief necessitating rental of specialty support surfaces to optimize clinical outcomes.
- Previously, surface rentals lacked clinical practice standardization and exceeded budgetary allowance.

STRATEGY
- Criteria-based orders were implemented based on best practice guidelines
- Rental choices were limited to the five most appropriate
- A specialty bed consult referral and order were built
- All specialty bed orders required a Wound Care Team consult
- Ordering privileges were restricted to the Wound Care Team and operating room charge nurses
- The order requires identification of specific clinical criteria
- Completion of the order automatically leads to the optimal rental surface based on the patient information input

IMPACT
- Critical Care/Pediatric Nursing Division driven
- Wound & Ostomy Team led initiative
- Electronic alerts automatically generated to key stakeholders upon order entry and cancellation
- Surgical flaps and grafts assessed daily by the surgical teams
- Patients’ wounds and skin reassessed weekly by the wound care nurse
- Based on reassessments, bed utilization is adjusted

EVALUATION
- Order analysis eliminates billing errors and monitors expenditure
- Since inception, expenditures have decreased from $178,461.00 to $102,467.05 during the first year representing an approximate 50% cost reduction.
- No increase in hospital acquired pressure ulcer prevalence has been noted

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE
- Specialty surfaces are one component of a comprehensive pressure ulcer prevention program and surgical, wound, skin management
- Smart orders with embedded logic and electronic communication strategies guarantees best practice adherence, controls resource utilization and streamlines workflow