

# Reducing Hospital Acquired Pressure Injuries in Patients With Darker Pigmented Skin

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## Background

- High national rates of Hospital-Acquired Pressure Injuries (HAPIs) nearly 2.5 million annually
- Braden Scale is designed primarily for lighter-skinned populations, leading to inaccuracies in assessing darker skin tones
- Disparity in skin assessment practices results in delayed identification, prevention, and treatment of HAPIs, particularly in individuals with darker skin
- At large urban Pacific Northwest hospital, staff nurse knowledge gap was identified regarding skin assessment tools

## Purpose

A quality improvement project to improve the accuracy of skin assessments for patients with darker skin tones by implementing an evidence-based, standardized skin assessment protocol and training program.

- Aim 1: Decrease ICU HAPI Incidence
- Aim 2: Collaborate and develop an improved protocol for skin assessment
- Aim 3: Collaborate and develop a Training program for new assessment skin protocol
- Aim 4: Achieve 25% increase in self-reported nursing knowledge, confidence, and competence in doing skin assessments in patients with darker skin tones.



## Methods

### Framework: Plan-Do-Study Act (PDSA)

- Assembled interdisciplinary committee Created skin assessment protocol--unique needs of dark-pigmented skin patients.
- Electronic survey to explore nurse perceptions, knowledge, confidence, and beliefs regarding assessing dark skin tones

### Evidence-based Training Program

#### Development:

- Training program based on project's E-survey results and new protocol
- Educated nursing: accurate skin assessment particularly those with darker skin tones

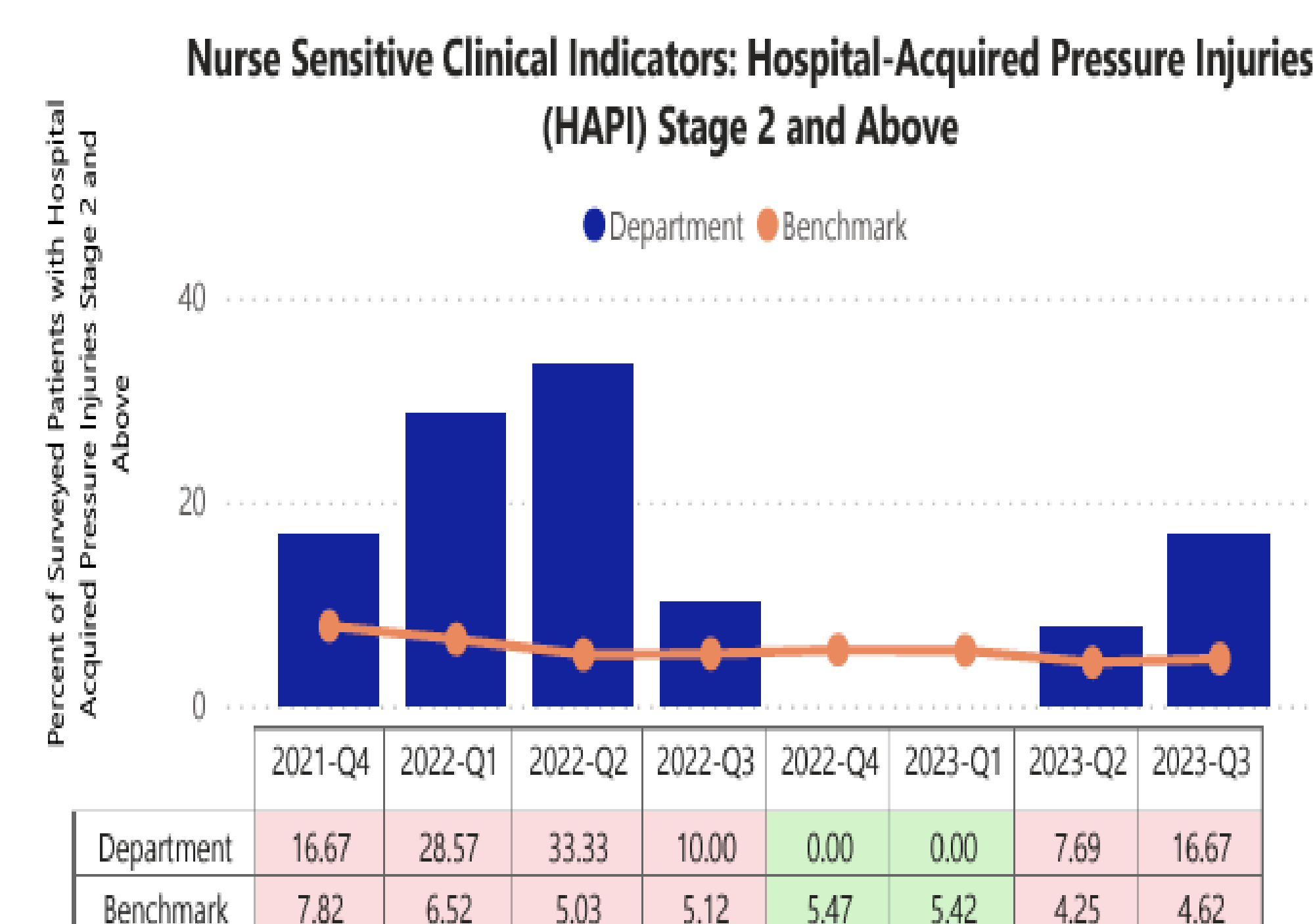
### Mixed methods approach:

- Quantitative data: Hospital-Acquired Pressure Injury (HAPI) rates and pre-and post-training nurse survey responses.
- Qualitative data: Survey responses subjected to thematic analysis
- Descriptive statistics to assess HAPI rates and changes in nurse knowledge and confidence on skin assessment

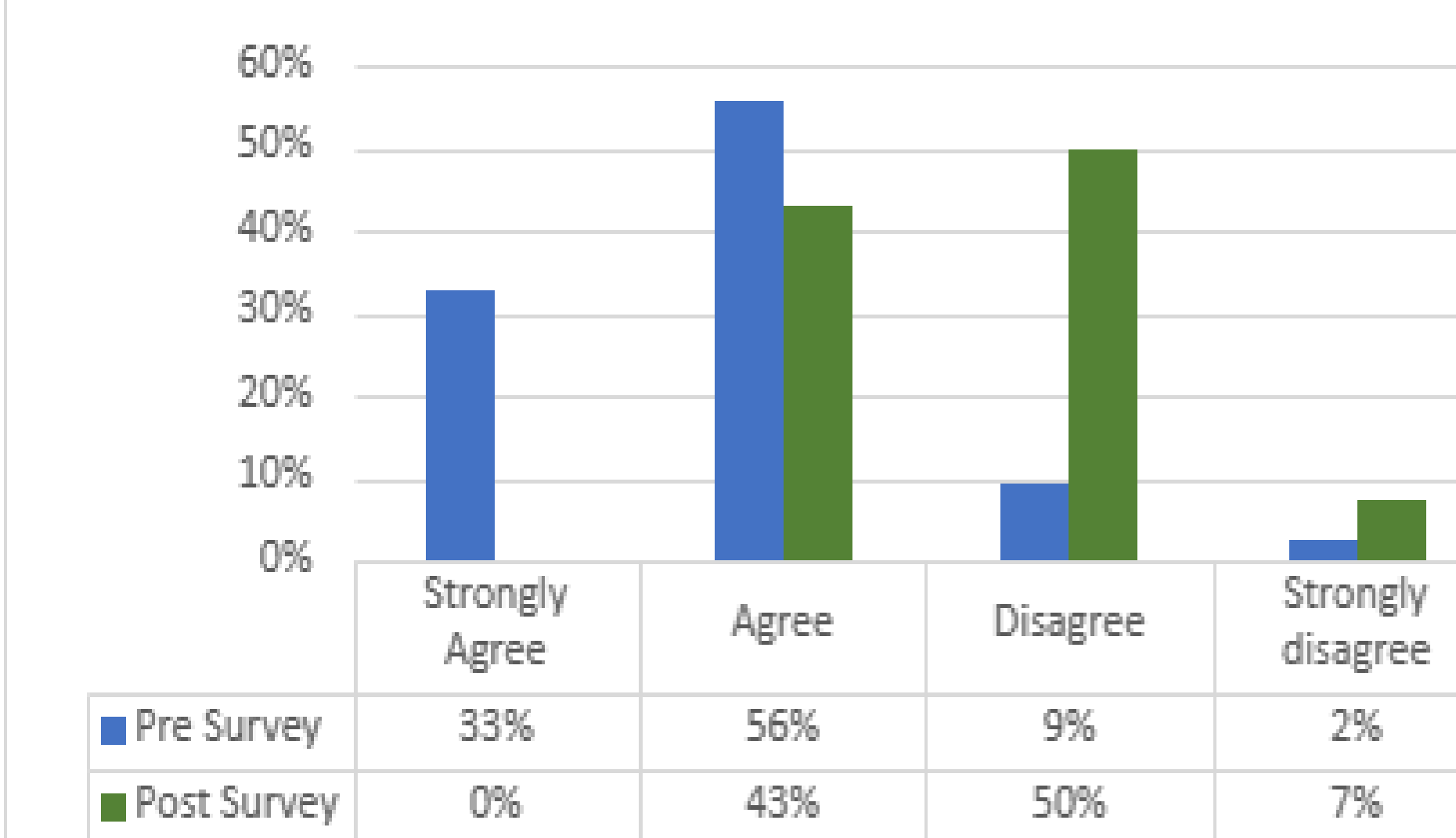
## Results

- Protocol and training were developed and implemented with positive impact
- Post Training Survey: nurses reported increase knowledge and confidence in documenting skin assessments.
- Data collection is ongoing to determine impact on HAPI rates.
- Percentage of > 50 % return survey

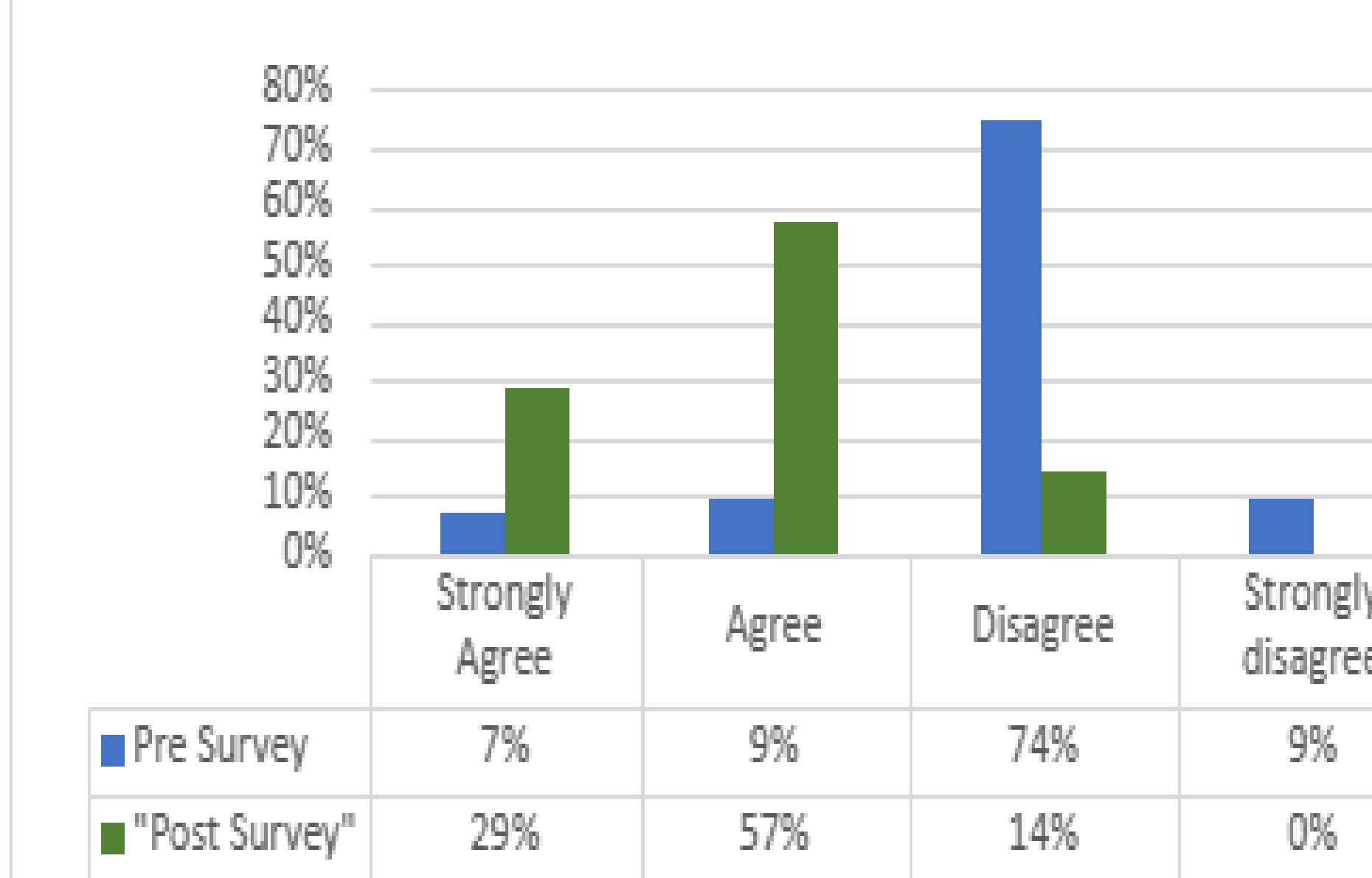
ICU HAPI Graph (NDNQI)



Not Enough Education



Confident in Documentation



## Discussion

- Pre-survey results showed nurses did not get enough training and education on assessing patients with darker skin tones
- Confidence in assessment and documentation need to be addressed in training program.
- Skin Training Program should be widely used in the hospital

### Challenges and Limitations:

- Project encountered several limitations, including a low population of darker skin patients admitted to the facility and a limited number of participants.
- Despite these challenges, the initiative strives to contribute to narrowing healthcare disparities and improving patient outcomes.

## Implications for Practice

- Enhancing skin assessment practices for individuals with darker skin tones is a crucial step towards improving patient care.
- Educational Training on how to assess and document dark skin tone patients is a first step to prevent HAPIs and improved patient outcomes.
- Further work and implementation to other units is required to deduce the direct impact of this education on patient related outcomes.

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For references and additional information, please use the QR code.