Providence
St. Joseph Hospital

An Evidence-Based Skin Management Improvement Project in the Intensive Care Unit

Chelsea Lannoo, BSN, RN, PCCN

MAGNET RECOGNIZED
AMERICAN NURSES CREDENTIALING CENTER

Background

- Pressure injuries have detrimental effects on patient outcomes AND reflect quality of nursing care and patient safety.
- Annual cost of treating healthcare acquired pressure injuries (HAPIs) in the United States is $11 billion (Cooper et al., 2020, p.150).
- HAPIs are largely preventable if appropriate interventions are implemented.
- Such interventions include monitoring under medical devices, foam dressings, z flex boots, etc.
- Skin care provided to patients should be based on an evidence-based regimen.

Purpose

The goal of this evidence-based project was to

- decrease new incidents of HAPIs in the ICU

Process goals

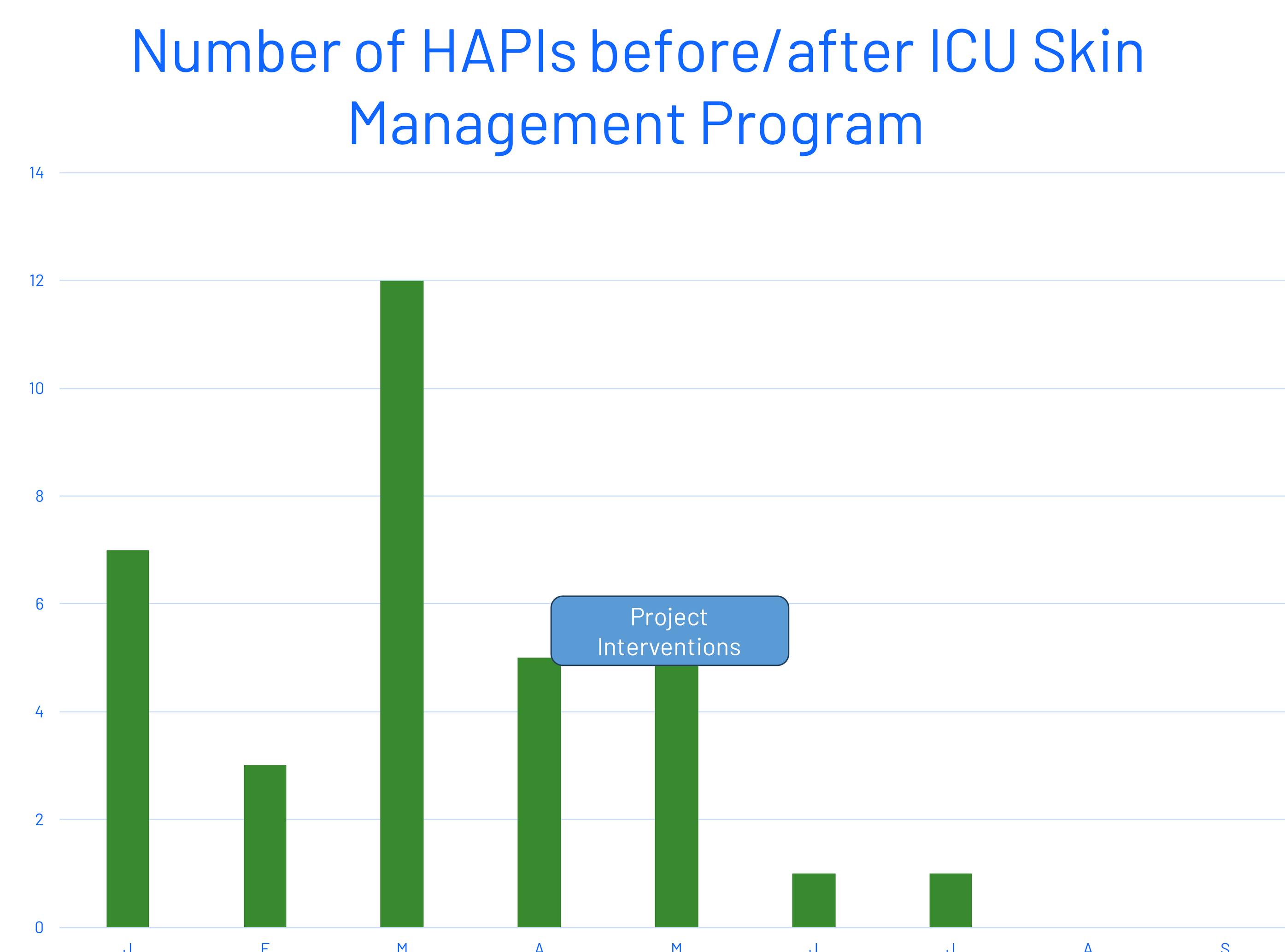
- eliminate the use of diapers
- decrease linen usage

Methods

- Setting: 20-bed ICU
- Staff education Feb-March 2023, audit and feedback Jan-July 2023

Procedures

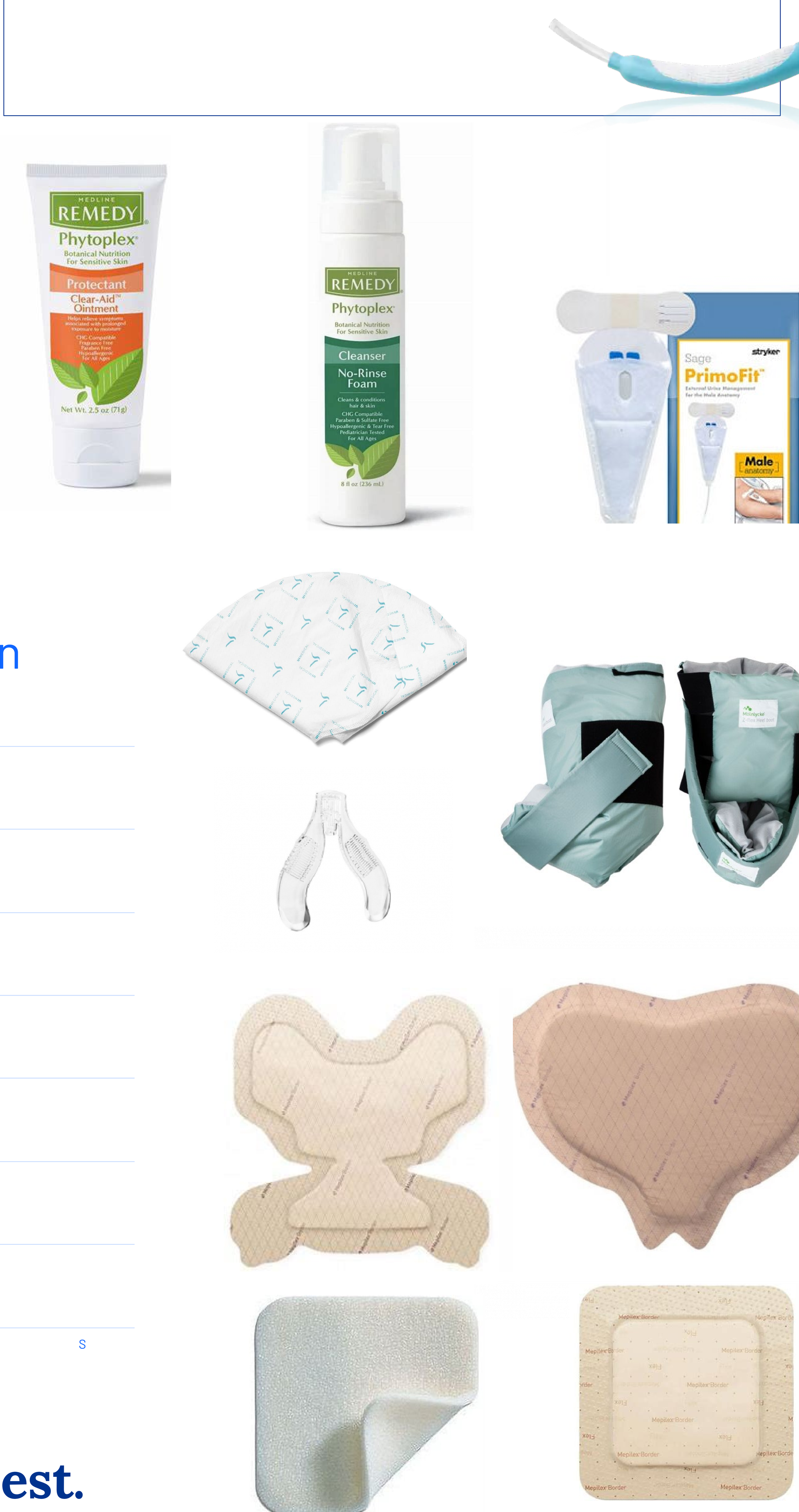
- Staff education on evidence-based prevention techniques focused on ↓use of diapers/linens (diapers removed from unit), turn schedules, new skin products
- Collaboration with RT department
- Quarterly room surveillance for products, compliance with policy
- 20+ medical records monthly audited for staff compliance
- Quarterly prevalence monitoring with results shared with staff.



References available upon request.

Results

- Downward HAPI trend from January – July 2023.
- NEW: 8 medical device related HAPIs were reported in first/second quarter 2023.
- Diaper use stopped
- Cost analysis not completed (new products not tracked).



Discussion

- Quarterly HAPI prevalence revealed a slight improvement.
- Monthly audits and room surveillance evaluated staff compliance and need for education.
- ↑ surveillance led to early identification and management of pressure injuries from medical devices.
- Frequent audits with staff feedback helped to ensure compliance with policy.
- Education and having staff resources contributed to preventing HAPIs.

Practice Implications

- Reduction of HAPIs can be achieved with evidence-based skin management practices resulting from systematic education AND audit/feedback.
- Monitoring HAPIs may uncover device-associated pressure injuries.
- Continued monitoring and education is essential to maintain gains and improve practice.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to

- Diana Feres, RN, BSN, CWOCN, PHN
- The Wound & Ostomy Department
- Regina Richardson, BSN, RN