An Evidence-Based Skin Management Project
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**Background**

- Pressure injuries (PI) are a significant health care problem.
- Pressure injuries are a major source of pain for patients.
- Pressure injuries increase direct and indirect healthcare costs.
- Hospital-acquired pressure injuries (HAPIs) may result in reduced reimbursement for the hospital.
- Nationally, the annual cost of treating HAPIs is $11 billion dollars.

**Purpose**

1. To eliminate HAPIs and moisture associated skin damage (MASD) in the Med Tele Unit by increasing mobility for patients, decreasing linen to reduce micro-climate, and eliminate diapers.
2. Track direct and indirect costs associated with the project.

**Methods**

**Design:** Evidence-based practice  
**Setting:** Medical Telemetry Unit  
**Procedure:**
- Education to all RNs, re-education as needed  
- 20-30 audits per month; 146 patients audited from February 2022 to July 2022

**Results**

- HAPIs demonstrated a slight but not statistically significant decrease in incidence between 2021 & 2022.
- Audits results:
  - 31% of patients were incontinent (N=146)  
  - 98% of incontinent patients had appropriate linen to minimize MASD  
  - 89% of incontinent patients had appropriate skin product use

**Discussion**

A combination of activities are essential to minimize the development of HAPI including:
- early recognition of those at risk for PI
- addressing and eliminating factors that promote MASD such as diapers, inappropriate linen
- increasing ambulation

**Implications for Practice**

- Opportunities exist to determine the efficacy of skin products in eliminating HAPIs
- Total elimination of diapers except during ambulation can make a substantial impact on HAPI development.

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**References available upon request.**