

Achieving Sustained Positive Outcomes for Pressure Ulcers in a Hospital: A Three Year Study Evaluating Skin Care Cost Containment and Pressure Ulcer Incidence Rate.

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Nosocomial pressure ulcers in hospitals are one indicator for quality of care and pose a significant public health problem, with the incidence rate ranging from < 1% to 38% in the acute setting.* Allman (1999) stated that pressure ulcers are associated with significant increases in hospital costs and length of stay. For patients in this study who developed pressure ulcers, hospital stays were 17.6 days longer (mean) and costs were \$23,364 higher (mean).** A preventive care program can reduce the total healthcare costs, especially when compared with the increased cost of treating complications related to skin breakdown.

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of a program designed to improve clinical and cost outcomes by decreasing the incidence rate of pressure ulcers and optimizing cost containment of skin care products as well as reforming the educational programs.

Methodology

Crittenden Hospital is a 98 bed acute care facility. The hospitalized patients have a length of stay of 1 to 3 weeks. Prior to initiation of this study, the hospital did not have formulated skin care protocols. Incontinence care products were randomly used. Baseline data for prevalence and incidence rate was collected and then documented monthly for a period of 3 years. The program included new skin care prevention protocols and a variety of educational programs.

Skin Care Protocols: 5 Skin Care Products used in this study

Incontinence care: Personal care cleanser and protective ointment²

Care for patients with early signs of redness: Personal care cleanser and protective cream³

Denuded skin or patients with extended periods of diarrhea: Personal care cleanser¹ and extra protective cream⁴

Fungal/yeast infection: Personal care cleanser and antifungal greaseless⁵

Education programs: High Priority 2002 - 2004:

- Interactive PST[®] for nursing assistants. This program is used for annual competency.
- Rewards offered to nursing assistants reporting early skin breakdowns.
- Annual program: 6-hour OPTIONS[®] offered to in-house staff including Nurses, Case Managers and Physical Therapists.

- Outside home-health agencies are invited every year. Approximately 70 nurses are attending this program from outside agencies.
- New hires received extensive education on prevention and treatment of wounds.
- All units received regular inservice on skin care products. This includes: Videos, product boards, protocols with pictures.
- Hospital appreciation program: Each nursing assistant receives a bottle of lotion after each education program. "Pamper the Hands that Care for Our Patients."

Discussion

The cost to protect 35 patients with incontinence is \$17.97 per day regardless of the products used.

Conclusion

Implementation of a consistent standardized skin care protocol associated with education has demonstrated improved healthcare outcomes as evidenced by a sustained low incidence rate less than 2.08%, a sustained cost containment for skin care products, along with staff satisfaction as the program gave them the ability to make a difference and improve patient care.

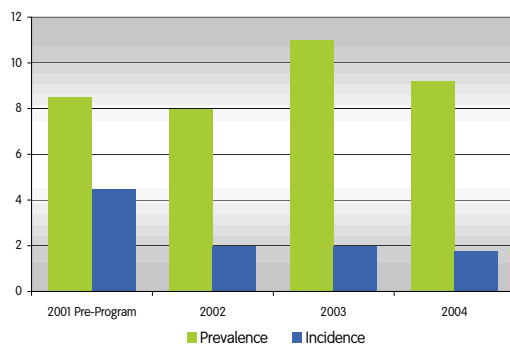
References

- * *Pressure Ulcers in America: Prevalence, Incidence, and Implications for the Future. An executive summary of the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel Monograph. Adv Skin Wound Care. 2001;14(4):208-215.*
- ** *Allman RM, Goode PS, Burst N, Bartolucci AA, Thomas DR. Pressure ulcers, Hospital Complications, and Disease Severity: Impact on Hospital Costs and Length of Stay. Adv Skin Wound Care. 1999;12:22-30*

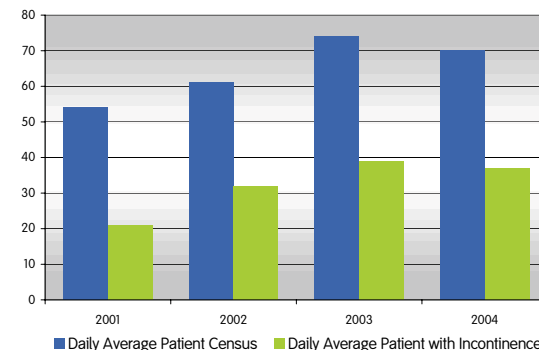
Outcomes/Results:

- Compared to baseline data, a reduction in the incidence rate was shown followed with a sustained low pressure ulcer incidence of <2.08%

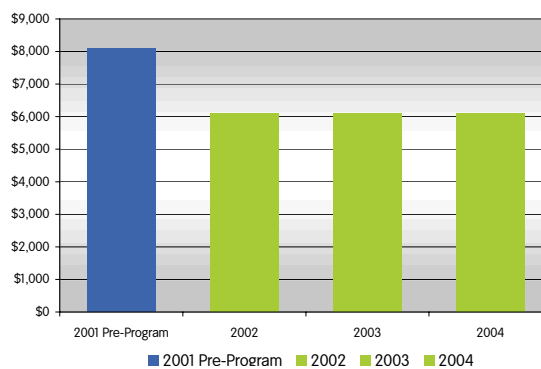
Crittenden Hospital PU Prevalence and Incidence Rates



Daily Average Patient Census



Total Cost Per Year for 5 Skin Care Products



A sustained cost containment for skin care products was documented during this three year study.

Daily average patients with incontinence	35
Average total cost per year for 5 products: personal cleanser, protective ointment, protective cream, protective paste, antifungal cream	\$6,195.00
Average total cost per day	\$17.97
Average cost per patient per day	\$0.48

PST[®] Practice Success Through Prevention, Smith & Nephew, Inc. Largo, Fla. OPTIONS[®]. Smith & Nephew, Inc. Largo, Fla.

Products referenced in this poster:

¹SECURA[®] Personal Cleanser, Smith & Nephew, Inc. Largo, Fla.

²SECURA[®] Protective Ointment, Smith & Nephew, Inc. Largo, Fla.

³SECURA[®] Protective Cream, Smith & Nephew, Inc. Largo, Fla.

⁴SECURA[®] Extra Protective Cream, Smith & Nephew, Inc. Largo, Fla.

⁵SECURA[®] Antifungal Extra Thick, Smith & Nephew, Inc. Largo, Fla.