

Project zero towards nursing never events - reduction of hospital acquired pressure ulcers

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ABSTRACT

Hospital-acquired pressure ulcers (HAPU) or bedsores — also called pressure sores or pressure ulcers — are injuries to skin and underlying tissues that result from prolonged pressure on the skin. Bedsores most often develop on skin that covers bony areas of the body, such as the heel, ankles, hips or buttocks. People most at risk of bedsores are those with a medical condition that limits their ability to change positions, requires them to use a wheelchair or confines them to a bed for prolonged periods. Bedsores can develop quickly and are often difficult to treat. Several care strategies can help prevent some bedsores and promote healing.

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EPIDEMIOLOGY

Pressure ulcers are lesions caused by unrelieved pressure that results in damage to the underlying tissue. Generally, these are the result of soft tissue compression between a bony prominence and an external surface for a prolonged period of time. The consequences of pressure-induced skin injury range from non-blanchable erythema of intact skin to deep ulcers extending to the bone. The ulcer imposes a significant burden not only on the patient, but the entire health care system.

It is universally considered nursing's greatest challenges and is among the most costly, most prevalent and most widely endorsed of all nursing sensitive quality measures.

THE PRESSURE ULCER THAT TOOK DOWN SUPERMAN

It is now fairly known that it was in fact a pressure ulcer that took the life of Christopher Reeve — the Superman.

Nearly 9 years following his spinal cord injury, he developed a wound that became severely infected. He died in October 2004 following a cardiac arrest at the age of 52 (Fig. 1).

THE STUDY

Red flag

Pressure ulcers increased to 29 (number of patients) in August 2011 from an average of 7 per month.

Grade 1 ulcers were not even identified for some time and they turned into grade 2.

Inadequate hand offs related to pressure ulcers.

Lack of nursing care due to lack of knowledge about pressure ulcers.

Skin care was documented but not given/inadequately given on the ground.

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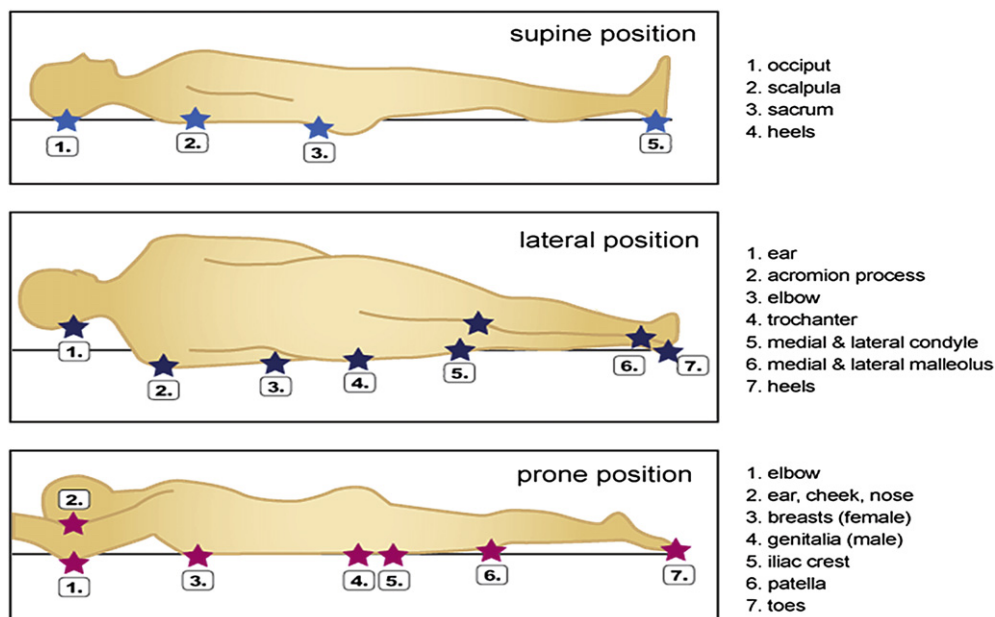


Fig. 1 Common pressure ulcer points.

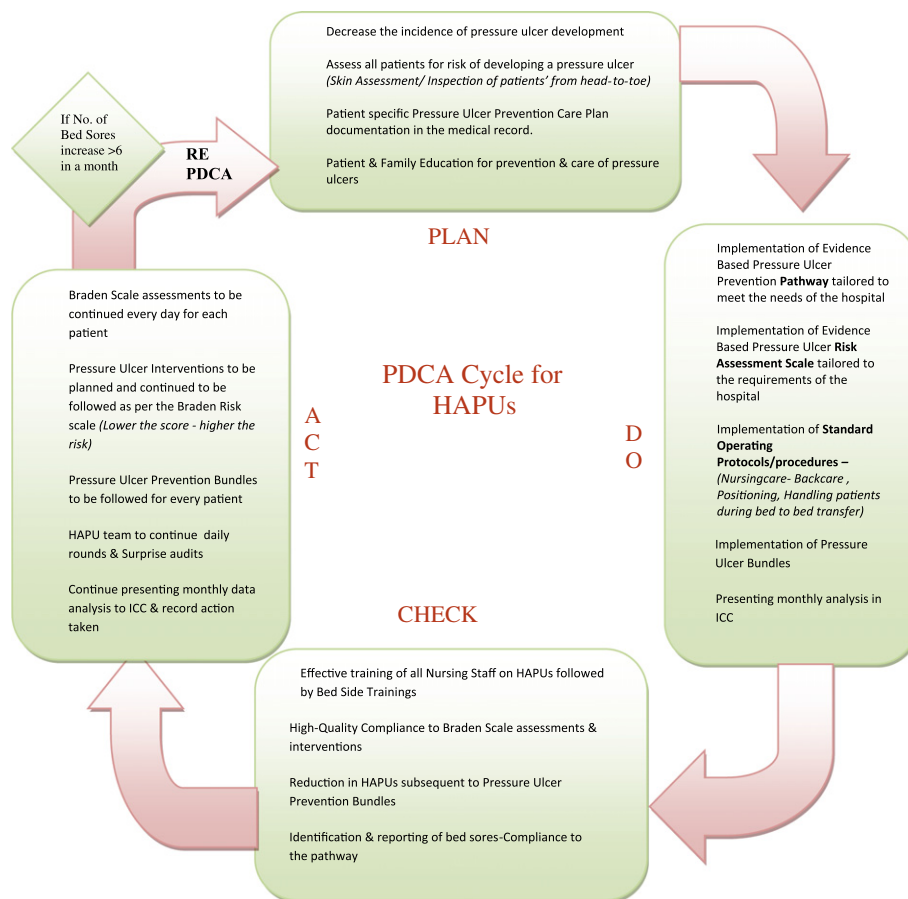


Fig. 2 PDCA cycle.

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