An Incontinence Associated Dermatitis Reduction Project and the Challenges Faced Due to a Global Pandemic

**Background**

- Incontinence associated dermatitis (IAD) is a risk factor for hospital acquired pressure injuries (HAPIs)\(^1\)
- Dimethicone impregnated wipes may prevent IAD, thus reducing HAPI rates\(^2\)
- The COVID-19 pandemic presented unique challenges when implementing a quality improvement (QI) project

**Methods**

- High HAPI rates identified in Transplant PCU 24 beds and Trauma Surgical ICU 22 beds
- A multidisciplinary team conducted a fishbone analysis of pressure injury events in PCU and ICU units to identify root causes. Inconsistent utilization of topical products and rough washcloths were identified as contributing factors to IAD leading to pressure injuries
- Introduced disposable perineal care cloth impregnated with dimethicone as a one step process, eliminating topical creams
- Outcome measures: IAD and HAPI prevalence, compliance rate and nurse satisfaction with product
- 2-week trial of product extended to 5 months due to challenges with COVID-19 restrictions for vendor on site support
- Utilized unit-based champions to educate and enforce utilization of product to study impact

**Results**

- PCU: great compliance → immediate reduction in facility acquired IAD (16.7% to 0%)
- ICU: initially low compliance → IAD did not decrease appreciably (25% to 23.1%).
- ICU: compliance increased → facility acquired IAD decreased (25% to 0%).
- Increased nurse satisfaction for ICU & TU

**Conclusion**

- Dimethicone impregnated perineal wipes are effective in reducing IAD
- bedside nurses highly satisfied with product and workflow, incontinence care and skin protection in 1 step
- Utilizing unit champions was very effective as supplemental support to vendor onsite training
- Hospital wide implementation underway as a result of the outcomes of this project

**QI Method Defined**

- DMAIC (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control) utilized as methodology
- PDSA (Plan, Do, Study, Act) used for evaluation method\(^3\)

**References**


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