SKIN, OUR LARGEST ORGAN: WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

Ferne Elsass, MSN, RN, Rebecca Arango, BSN, RN, Monique Dixon, BSN, RN Carol Sheehy, BSN, RN, Kim Smith, BSN, RN, and Jessica Wedeman, BSN, RN

Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters Norfolk, VA

Introduction

Skin care has taken center stage in many arenas. Pediatric risk easily falls by the wayside, however, it is just as important if not more so in critically ill children. Skin breakdown is a nurse sensitive indicator for the national Nursing Database for Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI), and pressure ulcer prevention is considered by the Ohio Children’s Hospital Solutions for Patient Safety (OCHPS) Collaborative as a patient safety improvement goal. In the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) at the Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters (CHKD), both indicators acknowledged a large disparity between PICU current practice and best practice. This void needed to be examined and changes needed to occur in order to provide better patient outcomes through prevention.

Purpose

- Identify high risk patient populations to support proactive skin protection
- Utilization of Braden Q scoring system
- Provide nursing staff with patient specific guidelines for skin care
- Provide nursing staff with product choices for use in patient application
- Provide resources and points of contact for skin related concerns
- Improve follow through and consistent follow up for skin related incidents

Methods

- PICU Skin Resource Team created consisting of PICU Educational Leaders, members of a PICU shared governance council, and inspired PICU staff nurses
- NDNQI data reviewed regarding PICU pressure ulcers at CHKD

Interventional Tool

- CHKD Kid Katches* reviewed from September 2011 to August 2013

Expected Results

- Improve staff education on skin related injuries and breakdown prevention
- Decreased number of pressure ulcers or evidence of skin related injuries over the next fiscal year with more timely and thorough assessment and intervention
- Meet the Joint Commission requirements for skin related injuries
- Continue to evaluate reports generated from NDNQI and Kid Katches to assess outcomes

Where do we go from here?

The PICU specific skin care protocol began with staff education followed by tool implementation. The unit has already seen an improvement in prevention. As a result the PICU staff has taken a proactive versus reactive approach to skin care. There is so much room to grow and we look forward to the future when all skin care related injuries are prevented.
Literature Review


