Background
From March 2013 through July 2013, an increased trend in blood pressure (BP) cuff medical device related pressure ulcers (MDRPU) in the Perioperative department was identified. The Perioperative department was asked to investigate the incidents. Each case was reviewed and a detailed report was created, analyzed, and returned to the core interdisciplinary team.

Objectives
• To eliminate the incidence of MDRPU caused by the BP Cuffs in the Perioperative Setting.
• Evidence had established that supporting a better practice required an adjustment in conventional clinical practice1.
• Additional research revealed a protective interface between the skin and device had shown to reduce MDRPU in acute care settings2.

Methods
To utilize Evidenced-Based Practice (EBP) to determine a method to eliminate the incidence of MDRPU caused by BP Cuffs in the Perioperative Settings.

Evidence suggested a cotton polyester stockinette sleeve needed to be implemented as a protective interface between the skin and the BP cuff during surgical cases.

Measures
Once the method was created an AAIMM project (Assess, Improve, Implement, Measure, Maintain) was established to monitor progress and outcomes.

Results
There were no incidents for four months. However, in December, 2013 there was one occurrence of a MDRPU from a BP cuff in the OR. The review of this case revealed the sleeve was not used on this patient.

Discussion
After its implementation, the persistent use of stockinettes under BP Cuffs has eliminated the presence of MDRPU related to BP Cuffs.

Conclusion
This interdisciplinary collaboration has resulted in the performance improvement initiative being a success. This low-cost, evidence-based quality improvement practice change had a positive outcome on the quality of patient care and resulted in eliminating device-related pressure ulcers caused by BP Cuffs. Due to this project's success, the information has been disseminated to several areas, including the Critical Care Unit. Subsequently (when the stockinettes are used) no MDRPU related to the BP cuffs have been reported in any area since the initiation of this practice.

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References