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The Turn Team Initiative: A Hospital Acquired Pressure Injury (HAPI) Reduction Technique

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A Quality Improvement project using a convenience sample was conducted. An EPIC chart review was completed following the intervention period to assess HAPI incidence and charting compliance.

Who was included?
Adult 4G/4R patients with a Braden score of less than 18 and inability to independently reposition in bed. The primary care nurse is responsible for adding patients / updating the charge nurse on patient appropriateness for the turn team assignments each shift.

What is the turn team?
On the odd hours two assigned caregivers round on each assigned patient. They provide incontinence care, reposition the patient to their opposite side, then document cares and patient position in real time through EPIC “Quickchart flowsheet, Positioning tab”.

Ideally, each caregiver is assigned one time slot per shift, with all other turns being consistently provided by other members of the team.

Who assigns caregivers to the turn team?
The charge nurse is responsible for making turn team assignments along with the upcoming shift assignment, and posts where most visible for the care team to see.

Results
59 Patients included in the study
81.5% Charting Compliance
5.2 Days Average time on Turn Team
9 HAPI’s
Pre-intervention period (1/1/2020-3/22/2020)
5 HAPI’s During the Study (3/23/2020-5/23/2020)
One of these HAPI’s is attributed to a patient who declined intervention.
0 HAPI’s Post-Intervention Period (5/24/2020-Present)
With the unit maintaining the practice and integrity of the intervention.

Discussion/Conclusion
The turn team initiative greatly reduced the incidence of HAPIs. Since concluding the study, the unit has permanently adopted the intervention into their unit practices. This cost-neutral nursing intervention can be easily applied to all medical surgical units.

Limitations:
1. Conducting study at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which could have impacted average patient acuity, as well as overall unit census.
2. Inconsistency in reporting HAPI’s via Datix Reporting System.

References: