

# 4 Eyes on Skin: A Standardized Electronic Documentation of 2 RN Skin Assessment to Reduce Hospital-Acquired Pressure Injuries on a Progressive Care Unit

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## Background

Hospital-acquired pressure injuries (HAPIs)

- Leading cause of preventable harm to patients worldwide
- Affects 2.5 million adults within acute care facilities each year
- Costs \$3.3-\$11.6 billion per year in the U.S.
- As of 2008, Stage 3 and 4 HAPIs are not reimbursed by Medicare as they are considered generally preventable
- Pressure injury prevalence reports in the progressive care unit (PCU) have shown an increase in reportable HAPIs
- 7 HAPI incidence between January to September 2022 (Figure 1)

## Purpose

The purpose of this quality improvement (QI) project was to eliminate HAPI incidence in PCU through implementation of a standardized 2 RN skin assessment and co-sign component within 4 hours of patient admission and transfer.

Following implementation of the project, staff compliance of skin assessment and documentation will increase by 25%.

## Methods

- A 34-bed progressive care unit was selected for the project.  
16-week implementation period (October 1, 2022, to January 31, 2023)  
"4 Eyes on Skin" Bundle was developed:
- Standardized 2 RN skin assessment (Figure 2) and documentation (Figure 3) with cosign component using the smart phrase (.4eyesskincheck).
  - Staff education and return demonstration
  - Daily chart audits of RN documentation compliance
  - Quarterly audits of unit HAPI incidence rates

## Results

A total of 600 patients were included in the project.

HAPI incidence:

- 1 month post intervention = 0
- 3 months post intervention = 1

4 Eyes Skin Check documentation compliance (Figure 4)

- 1 month post implementation = 33%
- 3 months post implementation = 83%

## Discussion

The adoption of the 4 Eyes skin check has resulted in a significant change in culture.

The team's multi-pronged approach of education, surveillance, and staff accountability improved patient outcomes creating sustainability in practice changes.

## Implications for Practice

HAPI prevention and commitment to patient safety remains high on the priority in the PCU department.

With the encouraging results of this project, we hope to garner the support of the organization's nursing shared governance council for a hospital-wide implementation.

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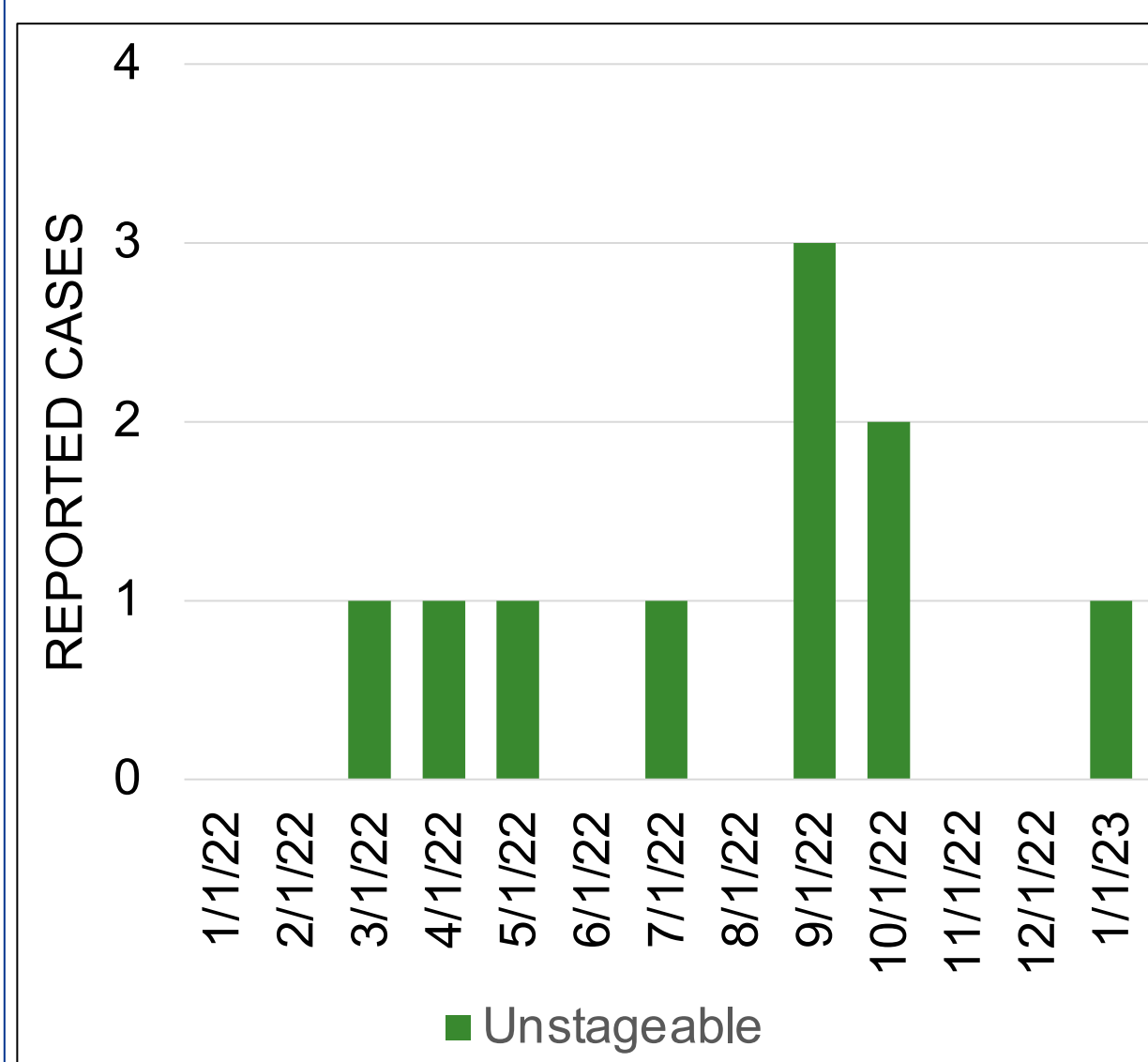


Figure 1: Monthly HAPI Report

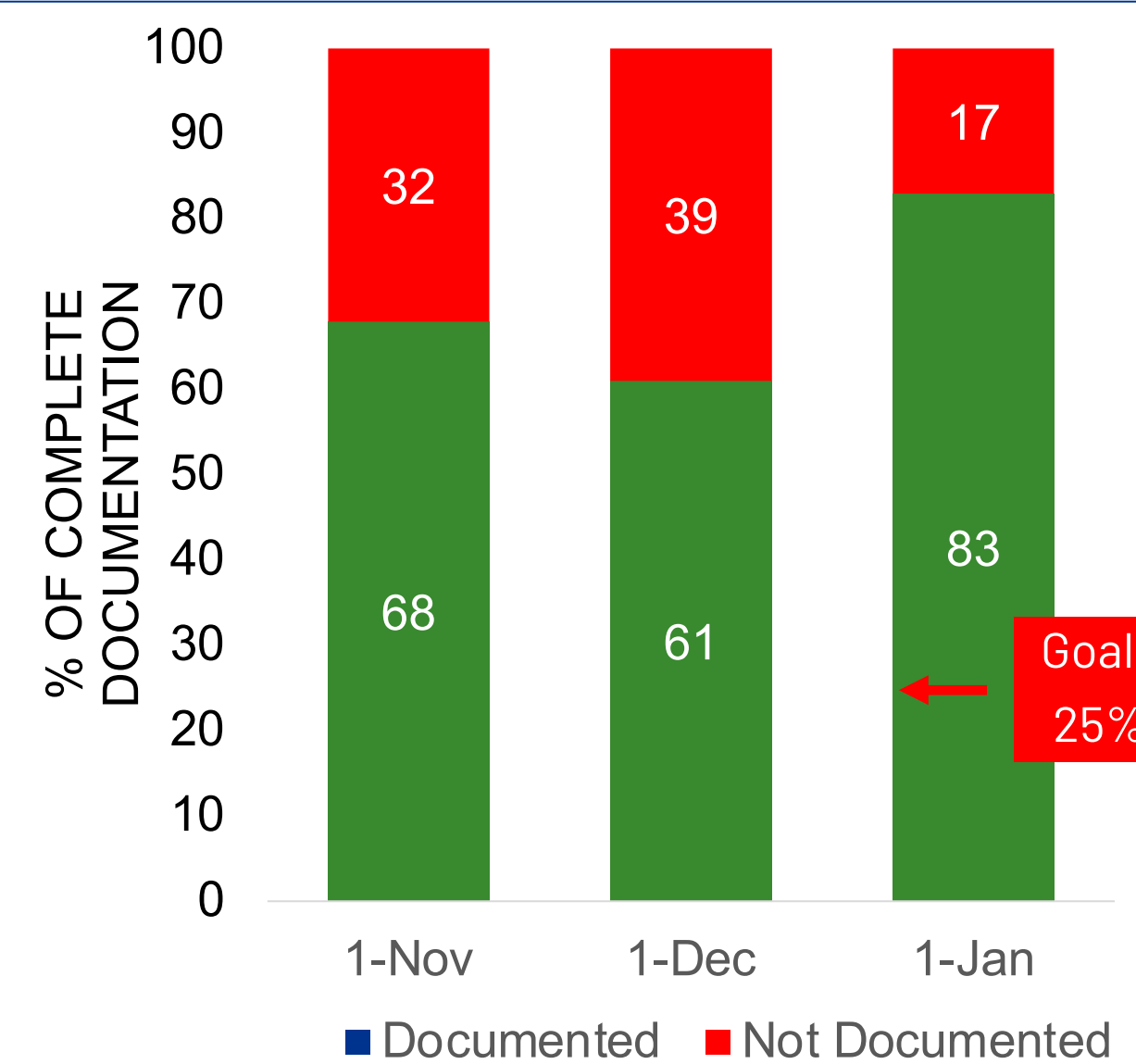


Figure 4: 4 Eyes Skin Check Documentation Compliance



Figure 2: 4 Eyes Skin Assessment



Figure 3: 4 Eyes Skin Check Documentation