Will Skin Protectant Education Improve Knowledge of Product Use?
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### Background

- Barrier creams are used in the prevention of pressure ulcers by forming a protective layer that keeps away excessive moisture due to incontinence, perspiration, or wound drainage and aid in maintaining the integrity of the skin.
- When there is partial or complete epidermal loss and the tissue is moist, applying a moisture barrier product is beneficial, such as zinc oxide ointments, or pastes.
  - Pastes consist of ointment or cream with an absorbent powder that allows the paste to adhere to wet surfaces.
  - Many products have a thick consistency that helps the barrier remain in place during ongoing exposure to liquid stool or urine.

### Methods

- Administered anonymous paper pre-surveys to RNs and CNs.
- Presented educational posters for RNs and CNAs to review individually.
- Anonymous post-surveys administered two weeks after education.

### Measures and Results

#### Pre-Survey Results (n=23)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Use</th>
<th>Pre-Survey</th>
<th>Post-Survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Product 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product 3</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product 4</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Practice Change

Increase registered nurses’ (RNs’) and certified nursing assistants (CNAs’) knowledge of integrating skin protectant product use.

### Conclusion

- The knowledge of unit staff on the appropriate use of barrier creams and skin protectants has increased after the education.
- The largest barriers to skin protectant use was lack of supplies.
- Written education provided to staff has outlined what each product is used for and why they are important, proper use has increased.

### Summary/Discussion

- **Next Steps:**
  - Create and implement a skin care protocol.
  - Follow and track patients who have developed pressure injuries to determine if skin care product use has been provided appropriately.
  - Continue to provide education to RNs and CNAs working in the clinical setting.

- **Barriers of this Study:**
  - Lack of time to complete a post survey.
  - Lack of means to provide alternative skin care products to complete skin care, including Nutrashield, Soothe & Cool or Z-Guard.

### References