The Impact of Assessing Operative Inpatient Skin to Target and Reduce Inpatient Pressure Injuries
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Background
- During surgery, patients are immobile and cannot express pain or discomfort. This can lead to pressure injuries, pain, and longer hospital stays.
- It is the job of the health care professionals to manage these patients and attempt to prevent injuries from occurring.
- Standardized skin assessments identify patients at the greatest risk. This allows the team to plan and implement interventions to prevent skin breakdown.
- This assessment follows the patient throughout their hospital stay to increase continuity of care to improve handoff reports.

Methods
- Assess how many inpatient pressure injuries are directly related to operative procedures.
- Present educational flyers for RNs to review individually.
- Assess the rate of pressure injuries directly related to operative procedures two weeks after education.

Planning Project:
Integrate the Operative Inpatient Skin Assessment on all Preop and Intraop Patients

Practice Change

Comparison of Pressure Injury Location and Cause

Next Steps:
- Implement the assessment of the operative inpatient skin to all preoperative and intraoperative units at EMMC.
- Follow and track patients who have developed pressure injuries to determine if the assessment tool was utilized throughout the process.
- Continue to provide education to RNs and CNAs working in the clinical setting.

Barriers of this Project:
- Lack of time to implement project due to COVID-19 restrictions on the Residency program.
- Being unable to implement due to unit activity and priorities during COVID-19.

Conclusion
- This project was not implemented in the necessary timeline due to the COVID-19 restrictions and inadequate time for management approval.
- The plan is for succeeding nurse residency cohort to implement this plan and collect data to analyze effectiveness.

References