

**Unit 4: Quality Patient Care**  
**Z-Chapter 22**  
**ONLINE CONTENT (1 H)**

**Unit Objectives:**

- Discuss the use of key indicators to measure performance. (2,3,7)\*
- Describe the nurse's role in quality and performance improvement. (3,4,7)\*
- Identify tools and processes for continuous quality improvement. (2,3)\*

\*Course Objectives

Quality Improvement Project

**Review chapter 22 and place your answers to the following questions in the Z-Chapter 22 dropbox by 0800 on 2/10/2025.**

Pick one topic from the following list:

1. Improving communication about individual patients during shift change. (shift report)
2. Preventing catheter related infections, urinary or central line.
3. Preventing falls and injuries for patients within healthcare facilities.
4. Preventing pressure ulcers for patients within healthcare facilities.
5. Reducing medication errors.
6. Reducing nurse turnover rates.

Answer the following questions as it relates to the topic pick from the list above.

1. Identify problem areas (or causes) associated with the topic and prioritize each identified problem area. (List at least 3)
  - a. Staff not staying with turning scheduled
  - b. Poor nutrition/hydration increases the risk of pressure ulcers
  - c. Poor circulation increases risk of pressure ulcers
2. Develop solutions for each problem or cause listed. (Provide at least 3)
  - a. Staff not turning patient
    - i. Provide a visual turning schedule that can be seen by all. Turn all of your assigned patients at this schedule (if they cannot turn themselves)
    - ii. Double person documentation because you should not be turning a patient by yourself.
    - iii. Document what side the patient was on and what side they were turned to
  - b. Poor nutrition/hydration
    - i. Provide protein drinks with each meal
    - ii. Try and provide some of the patient's favorite foods if they can eat
    - iii. Encourage patient to take a drink every time you enter the room

- c. Poor circulation
    - i. Apply lotion to areas of high skin breakdown.
    - ii. Encourage patients to move around as much as possible
    - iii. Use pressure relieving devices whenever possible/necessary
3. Identify why these problems might exist.
  - a. These problems might exist because the patient's may be older and may not be mentally cognitive of these problems and forget to do these things. They may also have different comorbidities that cause the patients to be at increased risk of these problems.
4. Provide a plan to improve and how to implement the plan. The plan should provide steps for improvement. The implementation should provide a timeline.
  - a. There will be a 10% decrease in pressure ulcers by the end of the quarter (March 31<sup>st</sup>) on 3T. This will be done by implementing a new skin risk assessment and interventions that will encourage staff and patients to increase mobility, nutrition and hydration. Staff will be on a turn schedule and every patient will be turned at the same time every shift. These changes will be evaluated every 7 days with a compliance percentage.
5. How will you monitor that your plan is effective?
  - a. I will monitor the plan by comparing the number of pressure ulcers before the implementation with the amount of pressure ulcer we are caring for at every 7 day mark following the implementation until the goal is achieved.

Please be prepared to share and discuss your answers in class.

*In order to receive full credit (1 H class time) for this assignment, it must be completed in its entirety by the due date/time assigned. Any assignments not completed in its entirety by the assigned due date and time will result in missed class time.*