

Pressure Ulcer Treatment in Nursing Facilities: Quality Improvement

Paige Hennessy

Lakeview College of Nursing

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Professor Eleni Key

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Quality Improvement is crucial in all healthcare settings because healthcare has many different aspects and is constantly growing. Quality Improvement requires enormous amounts of studies, research, and education. Individuals need adequate education to provide appropriate care to all patients. Ensuring a plan for quality improvement regarding pressure ulcer treatment in nursing facilities is extremely important (Au et al., 2019). Older adults are included in a vulnerable population and frequently require more care. Pressure ulcers are becoming more common, and there is a dire need to improve the quality of care given.

Article Summary

This article discusses pressure ulcers and the importance of quality and care improvement for all patients. Pressure ulcers are common in the older population due to the fragility of the skin and immobility. There could be and does need to be, improvement within the care provided to patients. This article shows that 2.3% to 28% of patients in skilled nursing facilities suffer from pressure ulcers (Au et al., 2019). These individuals that experience pressure ulcers often also experience a decline in their quality of life (Au et al., 2019). Quality improvement throughout all nursing facilities can improve patient's quality of life and care.

Introduction

This article is a quantitative study testing a skin and wound application on a device to improve the quality of care for patients struggling with pressure ulcers in nursing facilities. Quality Improvement is significant in healthcare. Quality Improvement is a process of research used to determine the better quality of care and outcomes for patients in the healthcare system

(Au et al., 2019). Patient care and safety are paramount to staff and patients' quality of life. Those patients in nursing facilities suffering from pressure ulcers have a decline in quality of life, and with proper changes, this can improve (Au et al., 2019). This article reviews the quality of care and difficulties associated with patients that experience pressure ulcers. This article aims to improve the quality of care because negligible or uneducated care harms patients. With proper steps to change this, there can be an adequate improvement in the care given to all patients.

Overview

Nursing facilities encounter many patients, including young, old, disabled, and many more. There are many steps to take in order to provide adequate care to those with pressure ulcers. A skin integrity coordinator has the job of educating and assisting in proper wound care. All nursing staff should be equally educated and have all the proper resources to provide wound care (Au et al., 2019). The percentage of long-stay high-risk pressure ulcers was 12.99% in 2016; with the position of skin integrity coordinator, the percentage dropped to 2.9% in 2017 (Au et al., 2019). The percentage of patients who stayed for a short time was zero. This information informs us that patients with extended stays are more susceptible to pressure ulcers, especially if they have a disability or are older. Proper education and management can implement quality improvement throughout all nursing facilities. Thus, this article reviewed the study of an application to assist in organizing and auditing patient skin care. Quality Improvement provides safe, adequate, and healthy patient care.

Quality Improvement

The plan for Quality improvement regarding the treatment of pressure ulcers in nursing facilities uses an application for skin and wound management. This application can be downloaded on a secure device and allows staff to take photos and documentation regarding the

patient's skin from admission to discharge. The application can be very beneficial to not only residents but staff. Staff will take photos of all skin lesions and wounds to hold staff accountable for providing adequate care (Au et al., 2019). The photos are time-stamped and detailed, which is vital evidence that wound care management is in process. One of the most significant difficulties in pressure ulcers was residents needing to be turned or positioned appropriately due to staff turnover rates or lack of staff engagement (Au et al., 2019). With this new tool, staff will document regularly so the facility ensures proper care for all patients. Another benefit provided by the implementation of this application is financial. In the long term, the facility will save money using this application due to the decrease in lawsuits facilities face regarding untreated or preventable pressure ulcers (Au et al., 2019). This quality improvement study can save many patients and change how these residents receive care.

Application to Nursing

The quality improvement capability is to improve the care given to all patients. However, specifically, this article aims to provide better care to those in nursing facilities who experience pressure ulcers and wounds. Pressure ulcers are often preventable with proper education and healthcare (Au et al., 2019). There are ways to prevent pressure ulcers and skin lesions, including turning patients, finding comfortable positions to move patients, and being educated on skin integrity. Thus, implementing a secure application device for photos can ensure provided care while protecting staff as detailed evidence that nursing staff is providing the best care they can (Au et al.,2019).

Practice

Many ways are already known to assist in avoiding and preventing pressure ulcers. These include moving patients into different positions on a time scale to prevent too much pressure on one skin area. Another way is to assist the patient in avoiding too much pressure on previous injuries. Although these measures are helpful, many patients still experience harmful and preventable pressure ulcers. This quality improvement study regarding a secure application provides evidence and photo proof of care provided for pressure ulcers for each patient from the time of admission to discharge. During this study, the percentage of pressure ulcers reported declined due to proper care and knowledge from staff to promote preventable measures and use the application as directed (Au et al., 2019). It is essential for all staff to stay knowledgeable and educated when providing care.

Education

Research

Conclusion

References

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