

**Pressure Ulcer Treatment in Nursing Facilities: Quality Improvement**

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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). Due to constantly changing healthcare, staying up-to-date and knowledgeable is vital (QSEN Institute, 2020). There are many ways to stay current with information, including asking ‘what and how’ to find ways to deliver better quality care to all patients. The ‘what and how’ can include the need to comprehensively understand all the concepts of healthcare and patient care (QSEN Institute, 2020). 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 patients' 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. The QSEN competency in quality improvement is shown here by the research and processes taken to provide outcomes to improve the quality of care for all patients (QSEN Institute, 2020). 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. The facility will save money using this application in the long term due to decreased 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 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**

Education in most work environments is essential; ensuring proper education among staff in healthcare can benefit the patients and the staff to complete their tasks correctly and safely. Research related to this article includes checking on the quality and management of pressure ulcers, which can improve the tasks completed by healthcare providers (Au et al., 2019). It can result in safer outcomes, as well as ensure recovery for patients. Research can determine the

amount of knowledge staff has, which can inform management what areas need to be better educated or other solutions that may be needed and such as this article researched the quality and management of pressure ulcers. Pressure ulcers can be severe for some patients, decreasing their quality of life (Au et al., 2019). Therefore, ensuring that healthcare personnel are as educated as possible to provide care is very important. Although in this article, an idea was determined to use an application to ensure every patient's pressure ulcers are monitored and managed (Au et al., 2019).

## **Research**

The primary purpose of the research provided in this article relates to ensuring proper education, process, and protocol for the quality and management of pressure ulcers in nursing facilities. Research the proper steps taken when doing comprehensive wound assessment, measuring, and documentation regarding pressure ulcers and other wound care. The research provides clear accountability when determining the proper steps to improve the quality of care and predicts increased quality improvement when proper steps are taken (Au et al., 2019). This process will ensure patient-centered care, proper patient care, and improved quality of care.

## **Conclusion**

Quality Improvement is the foundation used when improving the quality of care given to patients. Quality Improvement ensures that the process and protocols used ensure achievable goals, patient-centered care, improve patient outcomes, and reduce variation (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2021). Quality Improvement assists the healthcare personnel by ensuring proper safety and safety processes. It can also ensure ease to some positions within healthcare due to increasing process improvements. This article found that using a secure application to monitor the quality of care and management of pressure ulcers was found to be

beneficial. Using a secure application to ensure the management of pressure ulcers and wound care and monitor promptly and regularly can assist in improving patient health and the patients who experience long-term hospital stays. The application also assists staff to help keep them on task and on time and ensure they can give adequate care to all patients. The hospital also avoids malpractice lawsuits by having a research and documented proof of the changes made to ensure proper patient care and documented proof of staff using the application and care given to wounds and pressure ulcers. Changes made regarding quality improvement are necessary to improve the quality of care provided to patients. The research can improve knowledge, skills, attitude, and safety (QSEN Institute, 2020). A change made due to the research on Quality Improvement is often necessary to improve the quality of care. Further research may continue to monitor the quality and management of pressure ulcers in nursing facilities.

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