Protecting Skin Integrity Project

Reducing the prevalence and severity of wounds through implementation of the Champions for Skin Integrity Model – Protecting Skin Integrity (PSI).

What is the project about?

This project aims to identify effective strategies to help health professionals, consumers and carers, implement evidence-based wound care - covering prevention, assessment and management of wounds.

How will we achieve this goal?

The team have previously developed and tested a model of care, the Champions for Skin Integrity (CSI) model, which utilises a number of strategies to achieve this goal. The strategies were based on best evidence on how to best transfer evidence into practice. For example, using feedback cycles, easily accessible and easy to use resources /information, teams of Champions, clinical decision-making support tools, working towards local goals, and stakeholder involvement. This model has been successful in aged care and primary health settings in facilitating evidence-based care and decreasing the prevalence of wounds. We hope to adapt this model to your, your patients and carers’, and your organisation’s needs and goals.

What will happen?

1. First we aim to gather information on your current procedures, resources and goals. To do this we’ll collect information in 3 ways:
   - Staff surveys - an anonymous survey will be handed out to gather information on current practices, experience, and facilitators and barriers to evidence-based care
   - The opportunity to participate in interviews or focus groups will be offered to all those interested, to obtain more detailed information. This information will be used to tailor education and resources to meet specific needs.
   - A skin survey and documentation review of a random sample of patients (~110 from CISS)

2. We will then discuss these results with you and finalise goals, resources and education programs, and start a six-month implementation phase where all staff and stakeholders can trial the resources and access education /information and train-the-trainer sessions.

3. After six months, we’ll do another survey and interviews, where you can give feedback on what was helpful, and what wasn’t! We will be able to use this information to refine the next production of resources and workshops. Also, we will do another patient skin survey and documentation review - results from this will demonstrate any changes in skin or wound care, and any changes in prevalence of wounds.

4. Results from analysing all the information received will be summarised and disseminated back to you.
How will we know if it makes any difference?
A pre-post design will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of the Protecting Skin Integrity program on uptake of evidence based skin and wound care (i.e. changes in procedures, policy and practice; prevalence and severity of common skin problems and wounds). A process and outcomes evaluation will also identify the core strategies from the program which result in successful incorporation of evidence-based strategies for skin and wound management into practice and policy of the participating health services.

What are the expected outcomes?

- decreased severity and prevalence of wounds
- increased implementation of evidence-based skin and wound management
- new knowledge on facilitators, barriers and the effectiveness of strategies to facilitate uptake of evidence in acute and subacute settings
- increased knowledge and implementation research skills in acute & subacute settings
- resources and tools on skin integrity and wound management specifically adapted to these clinical settings and populations

Contacts
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