

Problem Identification

Proper positioning is essential for all surgical patients to ensure safety and support their care. Positions such as Prone or Beach Chair increase the risk of pressure injuries such as skin tears, redness, and soreness. Nurses play a key role in preventing these complications while patients are under anesthesia and unable to advocate for themselves. With the rise in complex & longer cases, and without clear guidelines on when or how to use prophylactic dressings, a workgroup was formed to evaluate nursing practice and barriers to better protect patients and support the team.

P - Surgical Patients identified as high risk for pressure injury in the Operating Room (OR)

I - Nursing education, practice standardization of prophylactic dressing use and ensuring consistent supply

C - Current practice showed inconsistent dressing use
O - Reduction in redness and skin injuries for high-risk patients and positions such as beach chair and prone at pressure points (as well as other positions as indicated) during surgery

Evidence Review

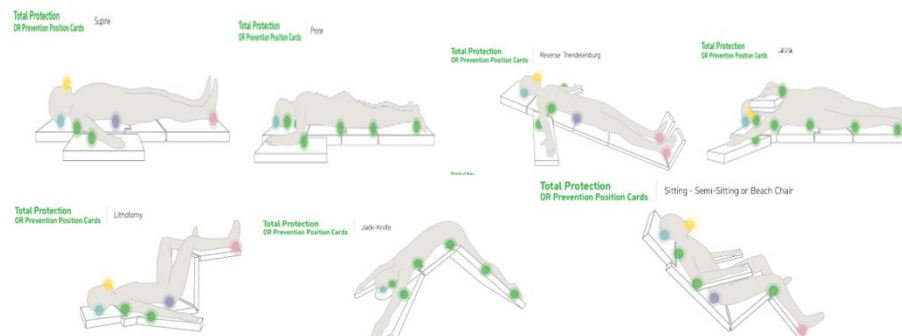
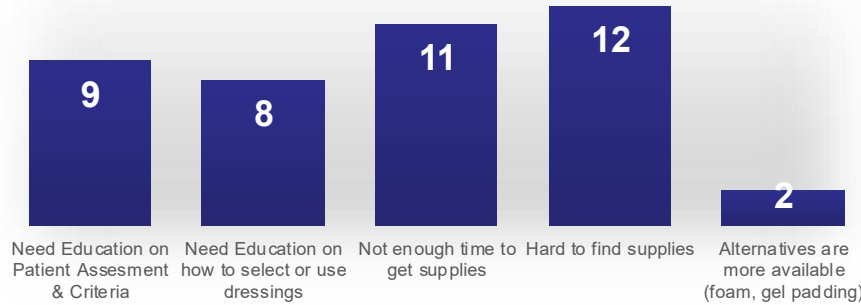
AORN recommends preoperative skin assessment using validated risk assessment tool

Extrinsic risk factors: pressure friction, shear, moisture heat and OR time greater than 2 hours.

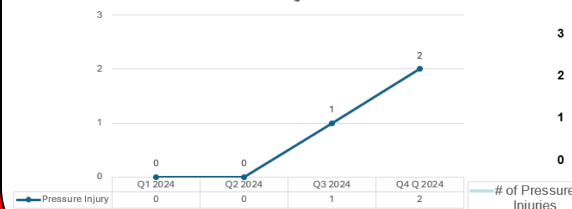
Intrinsic risk factors: patient age greater than 60, gender (female), comorbidities, and health status, nutritional status etc.

- Current evidence shows prophylactic silicone dressings as a Pressure Injury Bundle is best practice.
- Prophylactic dressings: Apply to bony prominences (example-heels, sacrum) or areas subject to pressure, friction, and force.

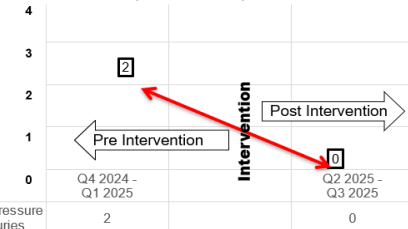
What barriers are you experiencing to using the prophylactic silicone pressure dressing?



PRE-INTERVENTION DATA
SKIN INJURY BY QUARTER



PRE & POST DATA PRESSURE INJURIES
Q3 2024 to Q3 2025

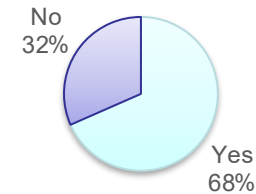


Methods

Phase 1 – Staff Survey

Nurses (n=19) were surveyed to identify if any and what barriers they were experiencing in using prophylactic dressings.

Are you experiencing any barriers to using prophylactic pressure dressings?



Phase 2 – Education and Supply Reorganization

Education was provided and a dedicated supply of dressings was created in each OR for easy access by nursing team

Change in Practice

By partnering with nursing staff, vendor representatives, and nursing professional development team, in-person inservices offered unique learning opportunities to meet the gaps in nursing staff knowledge and promote evidence-based practice.

Evaluation

- Barriers for adoption of pressure injury prevention identified during pre-training
- Ongoing evaluation of unit-level pressure injury rates (monthly level)
- Collaboration with OR Leadership team, Educator from Professional Development and the Clinical Nurse Manager who oversees Quality in the Operating room to facilitate regular education and reporting of skin integrity issues

What's Next - Phase 3

The workgroup of nurses partnered with the educator and vendor to develop standardized dressing placements for common OR positions which will be posted in each OR. The workgroup will continue auditing to reassess effectiveness of this new tool & practice.

References



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