Leveraging Technology to Elevate ICU Patient Outcomes

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Background / Significance

• In general, a challenge in caring for ICU patients is sustaining practices to prevent hospital acquired pressure injuries (HAPI).
• During 2021 (3rd quarter), a South Florida community hospital experienced a surge of COVID-19 patients more severe than prior surges, subsequently contributing to an increase in ICU patients and staffing challenges.
• As such, the focus of preserving lives overrode compliance with standards of HAPI prevention practices thereby negatively affecting the ICU HAPI rate (i.e., increased HAPIs).

Purpose / Goals / Objectives

• Due to an increase in HAPIs during a COVID-19 surge, the goal of this project was to decrease the HAPI rate in an acute care hospital ICU through the advocacy for and leveraging of technology.

Methods / Implementation Plan

• In March 2021, the AVP of Nursing advocated for technology to help in the prevention of HAPIs.
• Wellsense Vu is an advanced technology pressure monitoring/visualization system that provides real-time visual and evaluative feedback of pressure area assessment to ensure timely repositioning and redistribution of pressure.
• In October 2021, after the approval and acquisition of the HAPI prevention technology, the product reps trained the Nursing Practice Manager, ICU Educator, wound care nurses, and key ICU clinical nurses.
• The rest of the ICU team was then in serviced on the product by the educator and ICU clinical nurses as the 10 Wellsense Vu units were implemented.

Results / Outcomes

• During the pre-intervention timeframe (June – September 2021), the average monthly ICU HAPI rate per 1,000 patient days was 7.48.
• During the post-intervention timeframe (November 2021 – March 2022), the ICU HAPI rate per 1,000 patient days was zero.
• This represents a 100% decrease in the HAPI rate from the pre-intervention to the post-intervention timeframe.

References