

PREVENTION OF PRESSURE ULCERS

Where we've been...

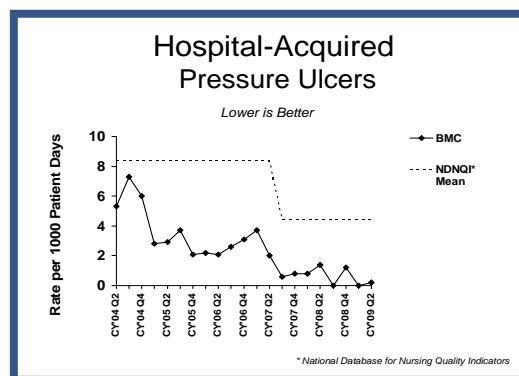
Preventing Pressure Ulcers Reliably use evidence-based guidelines for the prevention of hospital-acquired pressure ulcers (HAPU).

The assessment and identification of patients at risk for developing hospital-acquired pressure ulcers is an important component of patient management. HAPU may not only prolong the hospital stay, exposing patients to the risks of an extended hospitalization, but also may contribute to the seriousness of various complications and increase patient discomfort. The care of some patients, such as post-operative patients or the frail elderly, may necessitate minor restrictions in activity or even bed rest. Such restrictions may put these patients at increased risk for developing pressure ulcers. In 1995 and early 1996, Baystate Medical Center (BMC) observed a HAPU rate of almost 20% while the national rate was 10%; this was the major driver to purchase special beds and mattresses that provide pressure relief to all skin surfaces that come into contact with the mattress. Bed surfaces are adjusted based on each patient's individual comfort level and potential to develop pressure ulcers. The pressure relief capability and attention to detail to ensure appropriate use were key to the decrease in BMC's rate. This sustained success led to the planned gradual replacement of upgraded beds over the next several years.

Additionally, an objective assessment and risk-stratification tool to be completed on admission was implemented. In conjunction with the assessment tool, the evidence-based skin care treatment guidelines are in place. The guidelines support best practice in terms of prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers and are reviewed to ensure that current evidence and new knowledge are incorporated on a routine basis. Real-time monitoring ensures that assessments are completed and that the beds are in the pressure relief mode at all times. Education on the importance of appropriate bed settings, skin assessment reviews, and skin treatment plans are provided to all staff and incorporated into the nursing and physician orientation and annual competencies. Prevalence studies are done quarterly. Wound care nurses provide consultation on specific patient issues and ongoing education to nursing staff on state-of-the-art practice, significantly improving the overall care to patients. Finally, all 3 facilities report skin-related patient outcomes through the Patients First Initiative.

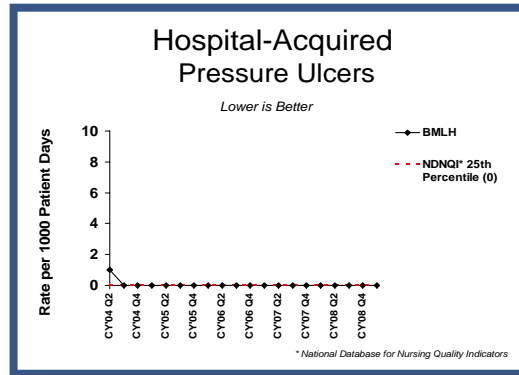
Where we are now...

BAYSTATE MEDICAL CENTER Since implementation of pressure relief surfaces and intense focus on skin care, there has been a steady decrease in the number of HAPU. The most recent rate for 2009 of 0% continues to be well below the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI) benchmark for facility-acquired wounds (4.4%). Compliance with skin intake assessment is at 99.9%; re-assessment is done at least every 24 hours. Any pressure ulcers that occur are reviewed ("mini" root cause analysis) to determine how we can prevent future breakdowns.



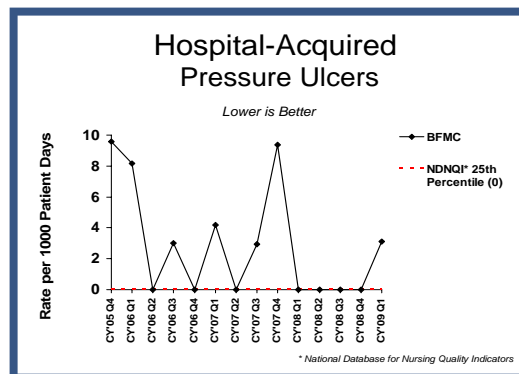
PREVENTION OF PRESSURE ULCERS

BAYSTATE MARY LANE HOSPITAL BMLH continues to hold the gains established after a major performance improvement initiative was undertaken to decrease the incidence of hospital-acquired pressure ulcers, resulting in a sustained zero percent rate for the past 5 years.



BAYSTATE FRANKLIN MEDICAL CENTER A major performance improvement initiative was undertaken by the Medical Surgical Service Line Team to reduce the number of hospital-acquired pressure ulcers and to enhance the identification of patients admitted with pre-existing skin breakdown. Skin care protocols are utilized to both treat the existing breakdown and to prevent breakdown. An interdisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, dieticians, physical therapists, and radiology staff was convened to review processes around skin care in all areas of the hospital. Monthly Skin Prevalence studies are conducted.

BFMC is participating in a MassPRO project where it is mentoring a local nursing home in providing evidence-based skin care. Jointly, they are developing a tool that may be used between facilities to communicate skin care issues. BFMC is also participating in the Massachusetts Pressure Ulcer Collaborative. After a year without any incidence of HAPU, a small rise in the rate of pressure ulcers was noted in CY'09 Q1.



Where we are going...

Increased state and national focus and public reporting continues to validate BH's focus on pressure ulcer prevention. The importance of HAPU prevention has been validated since CMS has included HAPU events in its Hospital-Acquired Condition Non-Payment model. This will continue to be a key quality and safety marker in the future, and will ensure that patients receive all preventative strategies in all BH facilities.