

## Sample Performance Improvement Plan

### Impact of Perineal Cleansing with Moisture Barrier Application on Pressure Ulcer Incidence in Incontinent Patients

**Objective:**

*(Suggested)*

Assess impact of nursing intervention on nosocomial pressure ulcer incidence through implementation of new incontinence care product.

**Background:**

*(Suggested)*

Your facility's incontinence-related pressure ulcer data along with current protocol and procedures.

*(Example)*

In April 2001, sacral/buttock pressure ulcers were recognized as high due to a lack of consistent incontinence care procedure. After review of the literature, a new protocol was developed and implemented. The new protocol was designed to help prevent skin breakdown by consistently cleansing perineal skin while simultaneously applying a moisture barrier. Comfort Shield® perineal care washcloths, from Sage Products Inc., were chosen to be part of the new protocol. All incontinent patients were cleaned and treated using the new protocol, which was developed based on information contained in the following published study:

Kimberly Clever, RN, Gloria Smith, RN, Carol Bowser, RN, Kurt Monroe, MA, PhD Candidate, "Evaluating the Efficacy of a Uniquely Delivered Skin Protectant and Its Effect on the Formation of Sacral/Buttock Pressure Ulcers," Ostomy/Wound Management, Vol. 48, No. 12, December 2002, p. 60-67.

*(Example)*

Care of the incontinent patient should be carried out in this order:

1. Perineal skin is assessed initially and daily by the Registered Nurse.
2. Incontinent patients are provided skin cleansing and moisture barrier protection immediately at the time of soiling.
3. Care should be taken to avoid excessive friction and scrubbing while cleansing at-risk perineal skin.
4. Underpads or briefs should be used that wick moisture away from the skin.

**Procedure:**

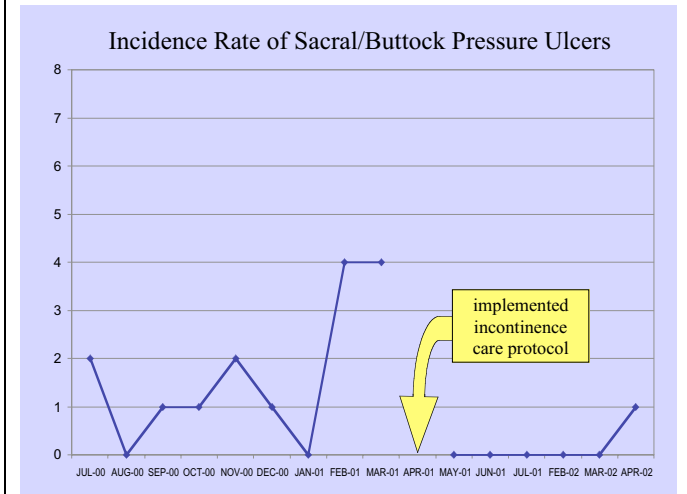
*(Example)*

1. Remove wet and soiled garment.
2. Remove large amounts of fecal matter with toilet tissue, if needed.
3. Remove Comfort Shield washcloth and reseal the package (except single-use packs). Product can also be warmed in a microwave or warmer (except tubs). See product package for warming instructions. If warmed, check the temperature. It is very important to check the temperature of the washcloths. If there is any indication washcloths are excessively hot, do not use. Remember, gloves diminish your sensitivity to heat. Closely monitor heat level with infants, unresponsive or skin sensitive individuals.
4. Cleanse perineal area with Comfort Shield washcloths until all of the urine/feces is removed from the skin. Discard each washcloth after use, per hospital policy for disposable soiled items. DO NOT FLUSH WASHCLOTHS. Use as often as necessary, especially if prolonged exposure to wetness is anticipated. Keep unused washcloths in the sealed package at the bedside for the next incontinent episode. Discard immediately if dry.

**Graph:**

*(Example)*

From data collected by Kimberly Clever, RN, Gloria Smith, RN, and Carol Bowser, RN – Fulton County Medical Center, McConnellsburg, PA.



**Results:**

*(Suggested)*

Data through:

Rate = Number of incontinence related pressure ulcers:

Average prior rate:

Average post rate:

Average length of stay prior to intervention:

Average length of stay post implementation:

**Economic Impact:**

*(Suggested)*

Average cost of Pressure Ulcer:

Average cost per month prior to intervention:

Average cost per month post implementation:

Savings per month: