SAVE OUR SKIN: TIME TO GET OUR HANDS DIRTY

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Problem

- There is a lack of education provided in local nursing schools regarding protecting patient's skin in the acute care setting. Thus, nurses feel ill-prepared when providing care for the at risk patient population.
  - Applying the limited base knowledge of skin care in their everyday practice was problematic for the nurses at Jackson Madison County General Hospital, a 690 bed rural hospital.
    - Common statements made by the nurses:
      - "We didn't learn that in school"
      - "I didn't know nutrition played a role in skin care"
      - "I've only seen pictures of pressure injuries"

Methods

- The original curriculum was presented to the inaugural group. Survey results from that group indicated the desire/need for more hands on stations/activities to increase understanding and comfort level. The curriculum was then revised to incorporate additional hands on experiences and was presented to the second group.

Hands on/Interactive Activities

- Food products were used to demonstrate pressure injury stages.
- Students applied prevention products on wound models to show proper placement.
- Pictures of skin issues with patient scenarios were given to divided groups of students so that each group could demonstrate to the class how to properly assess and document.
- Nutritional supplements were provided for students to sample.
- Support surfaces were brought in to allow students to test out the surfaces and work with the settings.
- Videos and hands on practice were used to demonstrate fecal containment devices.
- Students performed an ostomy pouch change on cardboard models.

Results

- "Loved the hands on demonstrations of the ostomy bags and how to make them more skin friendly."
- "I liked doing hands on things."

References

- Carver, C. (2015, February). How to Make Staff Education Fun with a Wound Care Carnival. Retrieved from www.woundsource.com/print.blog/how-to-make-education-fun-wound-care-carnival
- Tully, S., Ganson, C., Savage, P., Banez, C., Zarins, B. (2007, August). Implementing a Wound Care Resource Program. Retrieved from www.o-wm/content/implementing-a-wound-care-resource-nurse-program.

Purpose

- To establish a curriculum that prepares nurses with a focus on practical rather than theoretical knowledge by teaching what will impact the care provided at the bedside leading to a decrease in skin breakdown.

GET BACK TO THE BASICS!

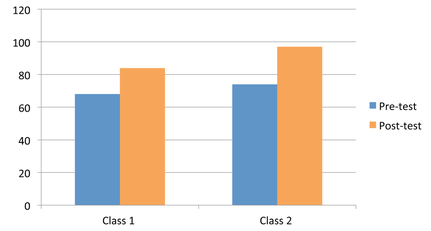
Comments or Suggestions from Students to Enhance Learning

- "…had to much to say – made me sleepy."
- "…the presentation could have been enhanced by bringing in the beds to the classroom and demonstrating hands on so we could truly learn to operate them."
- "I would like to try out the beds to know how they feel for our patients."
- "…have a portion where staff could actually enter information in the live environment."

Results

- The results from the second class survey indicate that hands on/practical education delivered in conjunction with theoretical education contributed to increased knowledge and comfort level in care for this population of patients.

Improvement in Post-Test Scores for Class 2



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