

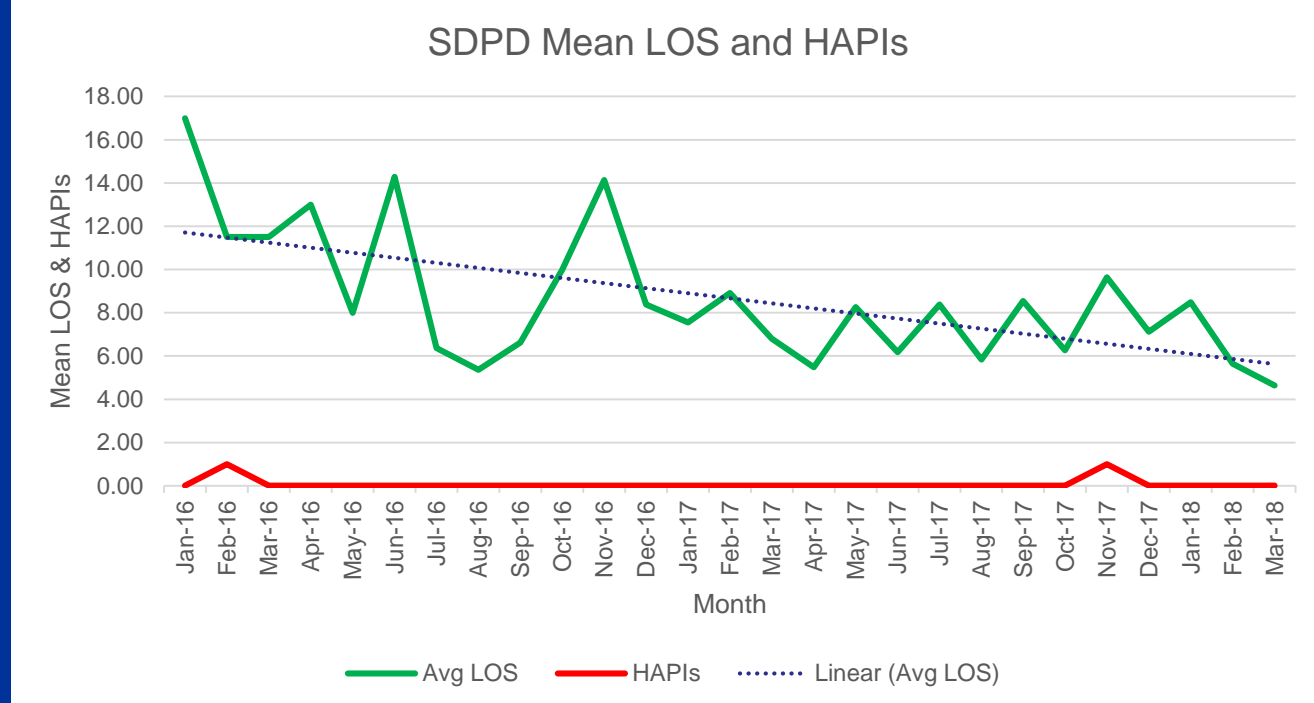
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Pressure Ulcer Prevention (PUP) – A 4"x3" magnet placed next to patient doors for increased awareness.

Introduction

A large health system in Florida was approached by a group home for physically and mentally disabled patients. The home was concerned that residents were discharged from the hospital with impaired skin integrity. An interdisciplinary team was developed including therapy, respiratory, case management and social work. The driving force behind the initiative was pressure injury prevention. Staff was educated regarding the special population. An FYI flag was initiated in the electronic medical record to identify patients for current and future admissions. An interdisciplinary team huddle to discuss needs and anticipated discharge obstacles was held within 24 hours of admission.



Results

We discovered that this population had very specific needs which had the potential to increase length-of-stay and therefore pressure injury incidence. We discovered use of FYI flag in the EMR resulted in earlier wound consult completion and pressure prevention initiatives. We discovered that heightened awareness to this special population promoted pressure injury prevention.

This specific population requires awareness for increased potential of pressure injuries. Implementing policies and educating staff and volunteers increased awareness to this population. Having specific patient huddles and interdisciplinary consultations heightened the awareness and need for pressure injury prevention and increased caregiver satisfaction with this population.



Methods

A passport was developed to give specific instructions regarding patient care. A protocol and order set were developed. We began a Special Needs Buddy Volunteer Program for the population. These initiatives brought increased awareness to this special population.

Wound consults alert the wound team and the patient is seen within 24 hours. The patient is assessed, photographs and wound measurements are obtained. Pressure Injury Prevention – PIP measures are initiated before the consult. The patient is placed on the appropriate bed and wedges, heel protectors, lift team assessment and nutritional status are all included.

