At a community based acute-care facility, quilted pads were still being utilized for incontinence management. The hospital has an older population and serves many long-term care facilities. Quilted pads were thought to be cost-effective and well-liked by the staff. The challenge was to educate and change practice while being cost effective, in addition to, reducing our high incidence of moisture associated skin damage.

Introduction

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Purpose

Decrease the incidence of moisture associated skin breakdown by:

- Replacing reusable quilted pads with breathable incontinence pads
- Being cost neutral or cost effective
- Reducing the use of incontinence adult briefs
- Reducing layers of linen
- Educating nurses to improve practice

Breathable pads replaced all quilted pads. One fitted sheet was placed on each bed with a disposable incontinence pad if guidelines were met. Diaper supply was dramatically reduced and controlled with a log to monitor usage. Monthly audits of layers of linen as well as skin inspection were completed to monitor staff adaption of new guidelines as well as determine effectiveness of new disposable pads.

Results

Utilizing one layer of linens increased from 10.1% to 44.5% as the brief usage decreased from 15.6% to 5.7%.

Methods

An analysis was done to determine the financial cost of breathable briefs while improving patient outcomes. Guidelines were then implemented based on this analysis. Education of the guidelines included disposable pads, acceptable practice of utilizing briefs, linen changes and defined nursing responsibilities. Staff accountability was obtained.

Results Cont.

Moisture management improved from an average of 65% to 84%.

Conclusion

Implementation of disposable incontinence pads led to a dramatic decrease in moisture associated skin damage with an increase in safe skin practices. The disposable incontinence pads were found to be more cost effective with the reduction in linen and reduction in diaper usage. A large cost reduction was attributed to the elimination of ordering additional quilted pads to ensure par levels set by each unit. Along with reduction in cost, staff satisfaction increased as well.

The diaper usage sign out sheet compliance has decreased since implementation; however was helpful to track initial usage and reasoning behind diaper use. Although there was a dramatic reduction in diaper usage, it was found that diapers were still being used for the incontinent male patient. Identification of a more effective external male incontinence collector was determined as a next step to continue to address moisture management and continued reduction in layers of linen.

References


Fader , M., Bain, D., Cottenden, A. Effects of absorbent incontinence pads on pressure management mattresses. 2004; Journal of Advanced Nurs; 48(6), 569-574.


Implementation of Disposable Incontinence Pads to Increase Safe Skin Practices

Alecia R. Tamburino RN, BSN, CWOCN

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