

## RT and RNs Coming Together to Prevent Skin Breakdown

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## Background

- Specialized area of PRU prevention, focused assessment and education developed in the ICU for patients with low Braden scores
- Education expands to more ICU RNs and rounds occur both day and night shifts
- Skin rounds expanded to all ICUs

## Device Related Pressure Ulcers

- Patients with a medical device 2.4 times more likely to develop PRU
- Device related pressure ulcers associated with edema, friction and shear
- Noted lack of awareness of skin related issues by RT, proper fit of devices by RN

## Background

- Respiratory Therapy Management tasked with reducing pressure ulcers
- PrU Prevention – not just a nurse’s job
- Partnership developed between RT and RN

## Events to Learn From....



## Evolution of Collaboration

- RT and RN meet to discuss respiratory device related PrUs
- WORN RN and RT conduct bedside skin rounds
- Development of RT skin rounds

### Let's get educated!

- RNs get education from RTs
- RTs get education from RNs

### RT Skin Rounds Starts....

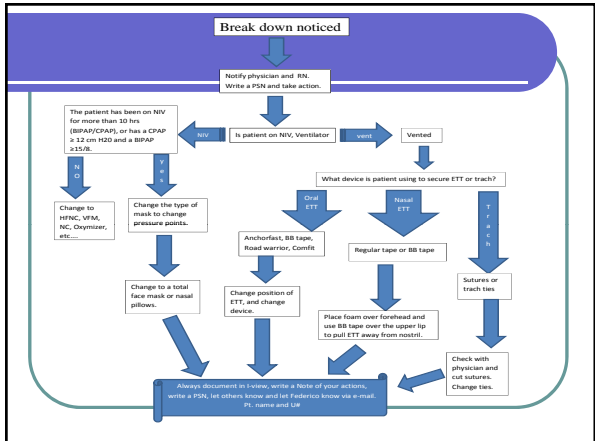
- Started as three times a week, now twice a week
- RT relays findings to assigned RN for raised awareness, WORN prn

### Results from RT Skin Rounds

- Positive RN response

“I think it's great we are approaching PRU prevention from different areas”

“It's increased my awareness of moving the endotracheal tube”



### Results from RT Skin Rounds

- New BIPAP masks to help with skin issues
- Decreased use of particular ETT securement device
- Introduction of padded nasal cannula

### Results from RT Skin Rounds

- Increased awareness by RTs of skin issues related to RT equipment
- Improved communication between RT and RN
- Wound consults called in by RTs

Questions?

References

- Apold, J&Rydrych, D. (2012) Preventing Device-Related Pressure Ulcers: Using Data to Guide Statewide Change. *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*, 27(1): 28-34
- Ayello, E. (2011) Keynote: Successful Pressure Ulcer Initiatives to Reduce Pressure Ulcer Incidence. NPUAP Biennial Conference. <http://www.npuap.org/PDF%20FINAL%20Handout%20Feb%2025%20Ayello%20Pressure%20Ulcer%20Initiatives%20NPUAP%202011%20%20Vegas.pdf>