

Accountability

Employing Pressure Ulcer Prevention

A report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services confirmed 2.5 million patients per year are affected by pressure ulcers, and approximately 60,000 of those patients die as a direct result. Medicare estimated that each pressure ulcer added an average of \$43,180 to the cost of a hospital stay in 2007. A group of 100 nurses and patient care technicians at MUSC known as the S.K.I.N. (Surface Keep Moving Incontinence Nutrition Team) launched an initiative to prevent pressure ulcers.

According to data compiled quarterly from the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI) pressure ulcer prevalence surveys throughout the past year, the team has worked to reduce the number of hospital acquired adult pressure ulcer cases from 14 percent in the first quarter of 2012 to 3.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Pressure Ulcer Prevention Prevails

Units that have performed at or above the 25th percentile during FY2013:

- A4WX Cardiac Intensive Care Unit
- A4EX Cardiothoracic Surgery
- 2E Joint Replacement Unit
- 5 West Antepartum/Gynecological Surgery
- A3WX Cardiac Interventional Unit
- A6EX Digestive Disease Center
- 7CHC Pediatric Intermediate Care
- 8 CHD Pediatric Telemetry
- 7 CHE Pediatric Medical/Surgical
- 7 CHA Infant Care Unit
- 7 CHB Pediatric Sub Specialty
- 8 CHE Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- 9W00 Neurology/Neurosurgery