Decreased Prevalence of Wounds - Implementation of the Protecting Skin Integrity Model

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Purpose
Many adults in acute or subacute health services suffer with loss of skin integrity. This project evaluated a model to facilitate evidence-based practice in wound prevention and management in a sample of Queensland Health acute, subacute, transition and aged care services.

Methods
Design: pre/post implementation study
Sample: Staff and patients of 10 medical wards of RBWH, and 4 wards of Community and Oral Health, MNHHS
Intervention: The Protecting Skin Integrity model was based on evidence-based implementation strategies (including champion workshops, goal setting, audit/feedback, toolkits)
Evaluation: Patient skin integrity surveys (two-person skin inspections, chart reviews), staff surveys, prior to, and six months after, implementation of the PSI model.

Results
Patient Skin Surveys n=200 (pre), n=132 (post)
Mean age 73 years (pre), 70 years (post)
56% female (pre), 49% female (post)
Wounds (all types): Pre survey: 59% of patients
Post survey: 48% of patients

Conclusion
In this study the PSI model increased uptake of best practice and was associated with decreased prevalence of wounds and improved staff confidence in evidence-based wound management.