

Brian Crosser
Research Project Abstract

Assessing Pressure Ulcer Staging Abilities Among Healthcare Professionals

Importance:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and other insurance companies withhold payment for hospital-acquired conditions. If a pressure ulcer is charted as Stage II upon admission and later is charted as Stage IV, it would appear that the patient's wound has worsened. The Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program (HACRP) is a pay-for-performance program that links Medicare payments to healthcare quality. An average 160-bed hospital can realistically lose \$6 million annually due to nonpayment and litigation for these pressure injuries.

Objective:

In this study, we seek to gauge the ability of our healthcare providers to stage pressure ulcers when given a standardized photo of a wound. Our hypothesis is that because they are responsible for the charting and for the diagnosis of pressure ulcers, physicians will ultimately score a higher percentage of correct answers than nurses.

Design, Setting and Participants:

This study consists of a survey that will be distributed to doctors and nurses here at the Medical Center Bowling Green which will consist of pictures depicting pressure ulcers at various stages. The employee will then be asked to categorize the ulcer into one of 6 stages: Deep Tissue Injury, Stage I, Stage II, Stage III, Stage IV and unstageable. The survey will be sent out via email. Before starting the questions, the employee will be asked to score their comfort level with staging, and after they finish and receive their score, they will then again be asked for a staging comfort score.

Main Outcomes and Measures:

The amount of correct answers will be tallied and a score will be determined for each participant. Our primary outcome will be the percentage of correct responses by physicians compared to the percentage of correct responses by nurses. Our secondary outcome will be comparing the starting comfort and change in comfort between these groups. Of note, this survey has already been performed here at the Medical Center Bowling Green. The next step would hopefully be to administer this survey at the University of Kentucky Hospital to their nurses and physicians there.

