Recording Pressure Ulcers

The development and re-development of an electronic Pressure Ulcer Notification Tool (PUNT) for use within an NHS Acute Healthcare setting

Mark Collier (Lead Nurse/Consultant Tissue Viability), Chris Bailey (Senior ICT Applications Developer), David Black (ICT Applications Developer)

Introduction

This paper/poster will illustrate both the development and the recent re-development of an online Pressure Ulcer Notification Tool (PUNT) to facilitate real-time recording of all in-patients with and all assessed pressure ulcers, within an acute healthcare setting.

A basic online form was originally developed in 2004 but more recent guidance on pressure ulcer management has prompted the development of a more robust tool to record and report pressure ulcer activity.

PUNT greatly reduces the overhead required to monitor and report upon pressure ulcers in line with the latest national and international guidance [1] [2] [3].

Only trained personnel can input into the system thanks to the use of an e-learning application that trains and tests the user and only permits system access when they have met the required competency level.

PUNT data can be referenced between assessment dates, which should be no more than one week apart. The system highlights when subsequent assessments are overdue. User feedback confirmed that the system is easy to use and subsequent (weekly) ulcer reviews only require a quick record edit.

The previous history of significant ulcers alert (all recorded as either category 3 or 4 damage) assists practitioners to identify potential ‘at risk’ anatomical areas on the time of this patients new admission/re-admission and therefore to plan care accordingly.

Discussion

There has been a national drive originating from the department of health to make sure all hospitals are reporting incidence and prevalence of pressure ulcers in a comparable way.

Most Trusts collect this data in a paper format that is then collated retrospectively, which is labour intensive. PUNT enables the data to be updated straight after assessment so the latest information is always available to the relevant individuals within the organisation. This includes Risk Managers, Tissue Viability Nurses, Information Services and senior management.
The system includes reports such as a summary of current patients with pressure ulcers on each ward to assist with ward management processes. Additionally, appropriate ‘at risk’ scores, such as the Waterlow or Plymouth scores have been included in the tool and may be updated either weekly or as the patient’s clinical condition dictates. Finally a number of appropriate care interventions are also included to assist the practitioner in both planning immediate care and to facilitate audit of subsequent care.

Results

PUNT has led the way in the management of pressure ulcers throughout the NHS and fed into research information provided by the Royal College of Nursing.

Methods

PUNT improves the process of managing information about patients with pressure ulcers across all four hospital sites that make up the United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT). PUNT was developed by the Tissue Viability and ICT departments. It is developed in industry standard technologies and meets all requirements of this product could be used by any hospital and other healthcare organisations have shown an interest at conferences such as “Avoiding Preventable Pressure Ulcers” organised by Healthcare Events.

Clinical relevance

This new process has already been demonstrated to have improved skin assessment and the care of patient’s relevant needs. Professional compliance with PUNT has risen from around 50% to over 90% since the launch of the redeveloped tool in April 2011.

Other patient safety gains include (but are not limited to) the following:-

- Improved patient quality of care.
- Includes data about where patients were admitted from, which helps to inform primary
This new process has improved skin assessment and the care of patient’s relevant needs. It has also helped to identify related conditions such as eczema thanks to the reporting and monitoring functionality it provides.

Following a patient’s skin assessment in the clinical setting (either on admission or ongoing) if any pressure damage is noted then the practitioner will record this information in the PUNT system, which is accessed via the Trust intranet.

• Conflicts of Interest - None

References

Further information:
For further information on PUNT, please contact Mark Collier Mark.Collier@ulh.nhs.uk.