

Taking the Pressure Off – Reducing OR Pressure Injuries

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Description of Team

In 2021, MSK set a strategic goal to reduce perioperative pressure injuries by implementing the standardized use of prophylactic foam dressings across all ORs. To lead this initiative, the nursing team below realized it was important to shift the focus of pressure injury prevention from inpatient to perioperative patient care:

- ❖ Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) for the Operating Room (OR)
- ❖ CNS for Wound and Ostomy Care and
- ❖ Director of Nursing for Perioperative Services

Preparation & Planning

A literature review was conducted to develop evidence-based interventions. Strategies to heighten preventative measures and reduce OR-acquired pressure injuries included:

- ❖ Providing a structure that identifies patients at risk for pressure injuries
- ❖ Standardizing skin assessments and documentation and
- ❖ Creating a framework for the application of prophylactic foam dressings in the OR

Assessment

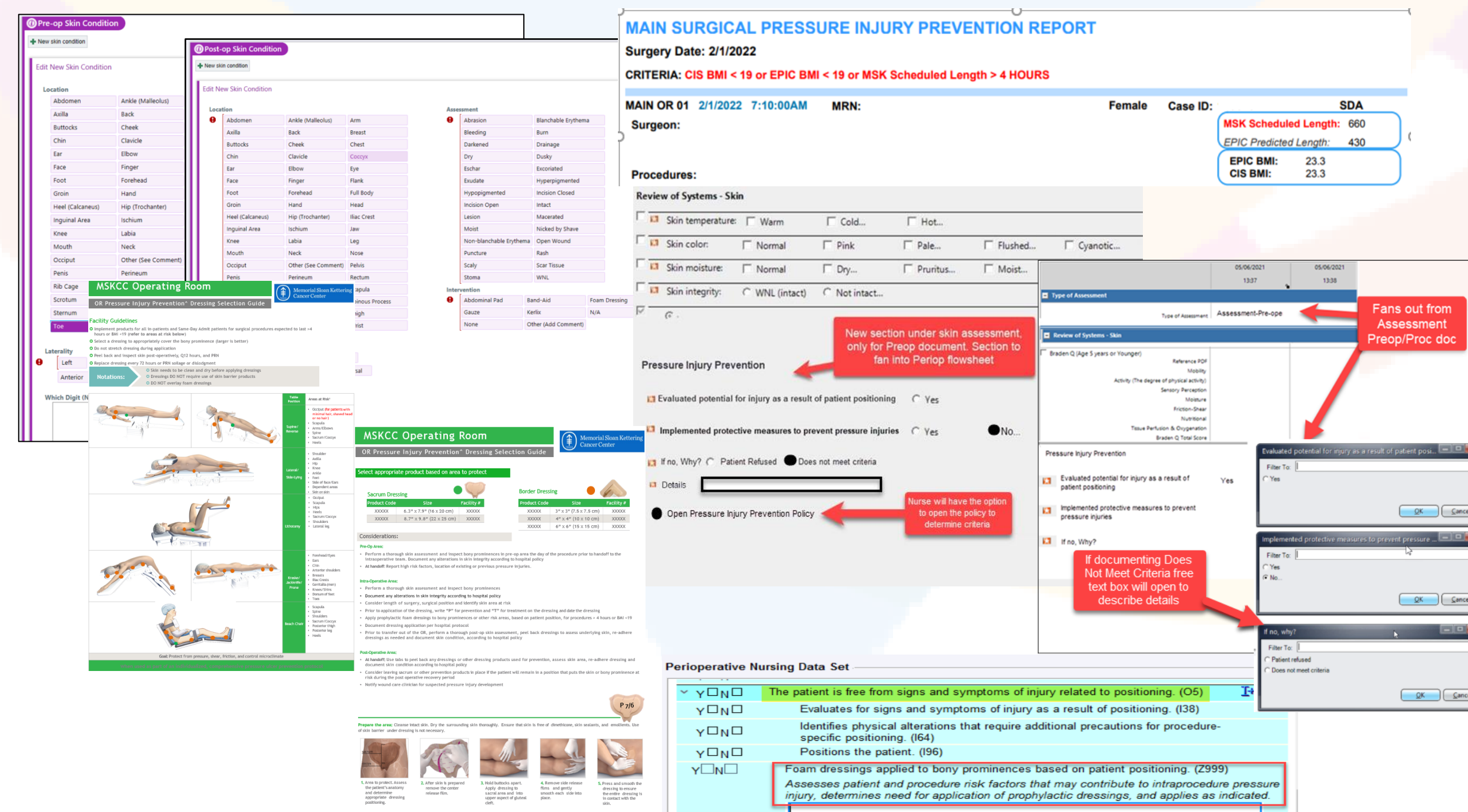
Identified areas for improvement included:

- ❖ Inadequate preventative measures
- ❖ Knowledge gaps regarding pressure injury risk factors and preventative measures
- ❖ Lack of comprehensive intraoperative and postoperative skin assessments
- ❖ Opportunities to enhance documentation
- ❖ Inconsistent initiation of postoperative wound care consultations

Implementation

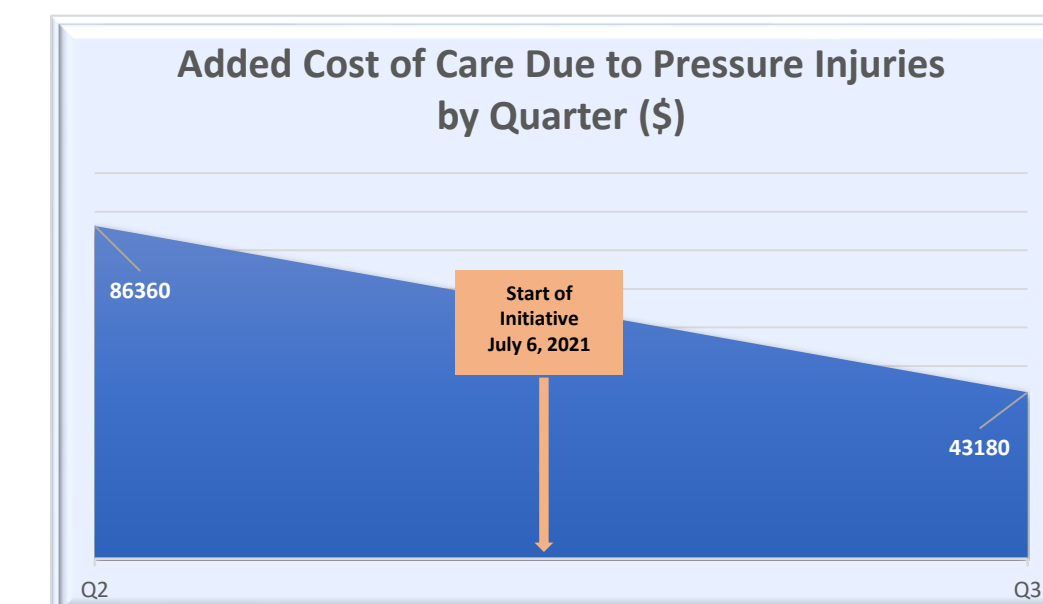
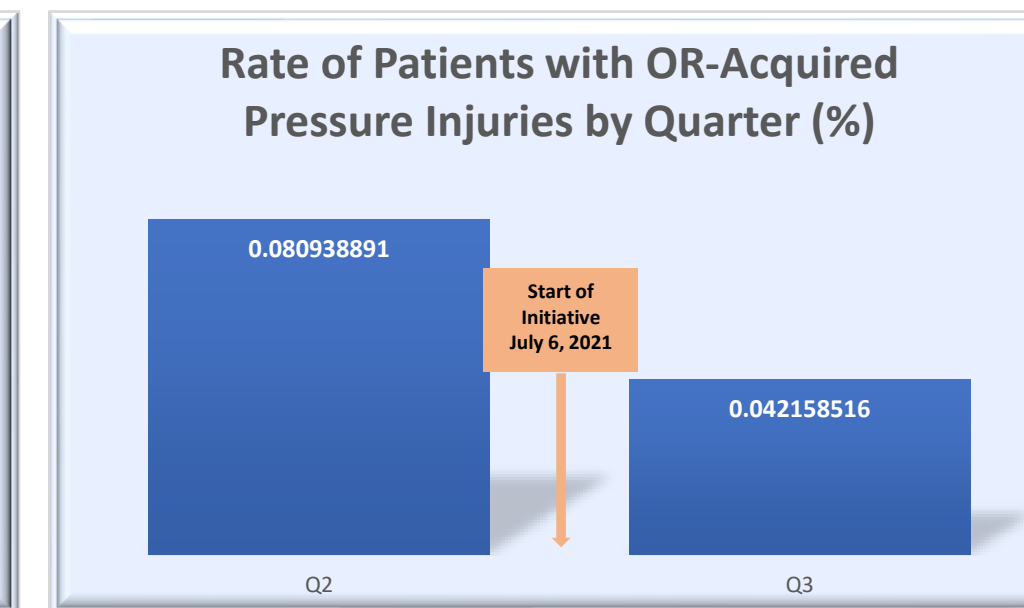
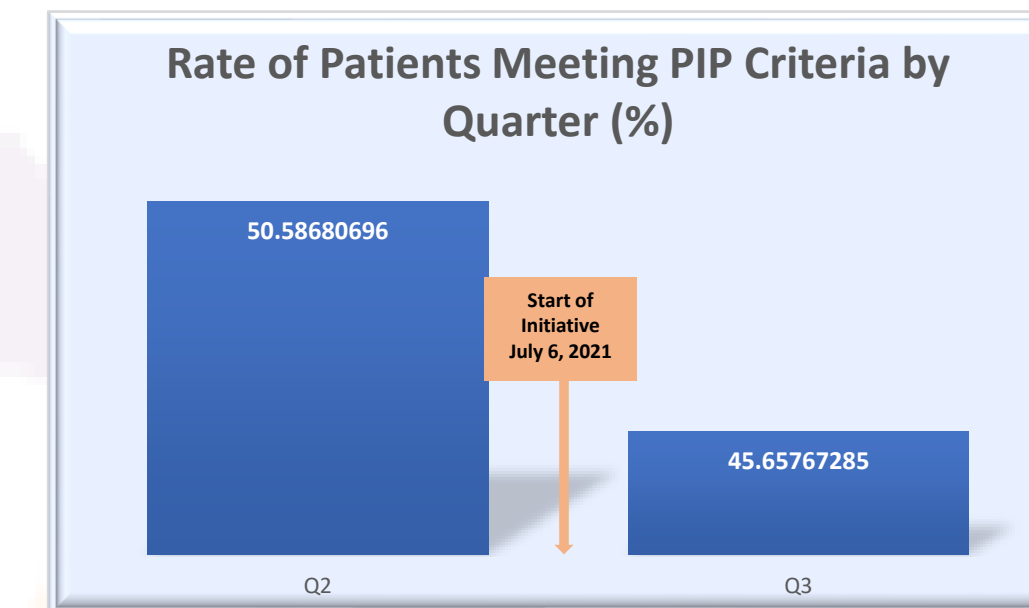
In addition to collaborating with the multidisciplinary OR Executive Committee, the team:

- ❖ Established criteria to identify patients at risk for developing OR-acquired pressure injuries
- ❖ Created a daily report identifying at-risk patients
- ❖ Provided staff education on comprehensive skin assessments and application of prophylactic dressings
- ❖ Developed an anatomical chart for prophylactic dressing placement
- ❖ Modified intraoperative and postoperative skin assessment documentation
- ❖ Provided real-time coaching
- ❖ Established a framework for reporting potential pressure injuries and initiating postoperative Wound Care Team consultations
- ❖ Conducted chart audits of OR records



Outcomes

Six months of preliminary data (April 2021 to September 2021):



Implications for Perioperative Nursing

Creating a workflow that allows for documentation of comprehensive skin assessments, early reporting of potential injuries and consistent follow-up care by wound care experts, adds an aspect to pressure injury prevention that goes beyond the application of prophylactic foam dressings. By shifting the focus of pressure injury prevention from inpatient to perioperative care and partnering with wound care specialists, perioperative nurses can successfully reduce OR-acquired pressure injuries and promote a culture of safe quality patient care. Future plans include evaluating the current criteria with the multidisciplinary teams to further improve the process.