

BACKGROUND

Hospital Acquired Pressure Injuries (HAPI'S) continue to haunt healthcare institutions. HAPI's are costly and place our patients at-risk of developing a multitude of sequelae and altering their overall health status. To promote safety, organizations must create tactics to counteract HAPI's by protecting skin integrity, and reducing the risk factors for skin breakdown. HAPI's can be prevented, although some may argue that there are unavoidable occurrences. As nurses, we must implement measures that promote skin integrity. Previous practices fostered a culture in which the nursing staff worked in silos, placing them at increased risk for injury and burnout. This clinical research project aims to reduce HAPI's.

PURPOSE

This ongoing clinical project aims to uplift nursing practice by utilizing available resources and reducing undesired consequences of HAPI's such as adverse patient outcomes, staff injuries and unnecessary costs.

METHODS

Reducing HAPI'S can be achieved by working cohesively as a team. Turning all patients with Braden Scores below 18, every two hours and addressing any barrier that places our patients at risk for developing a HAPI. The process is identified as follows:

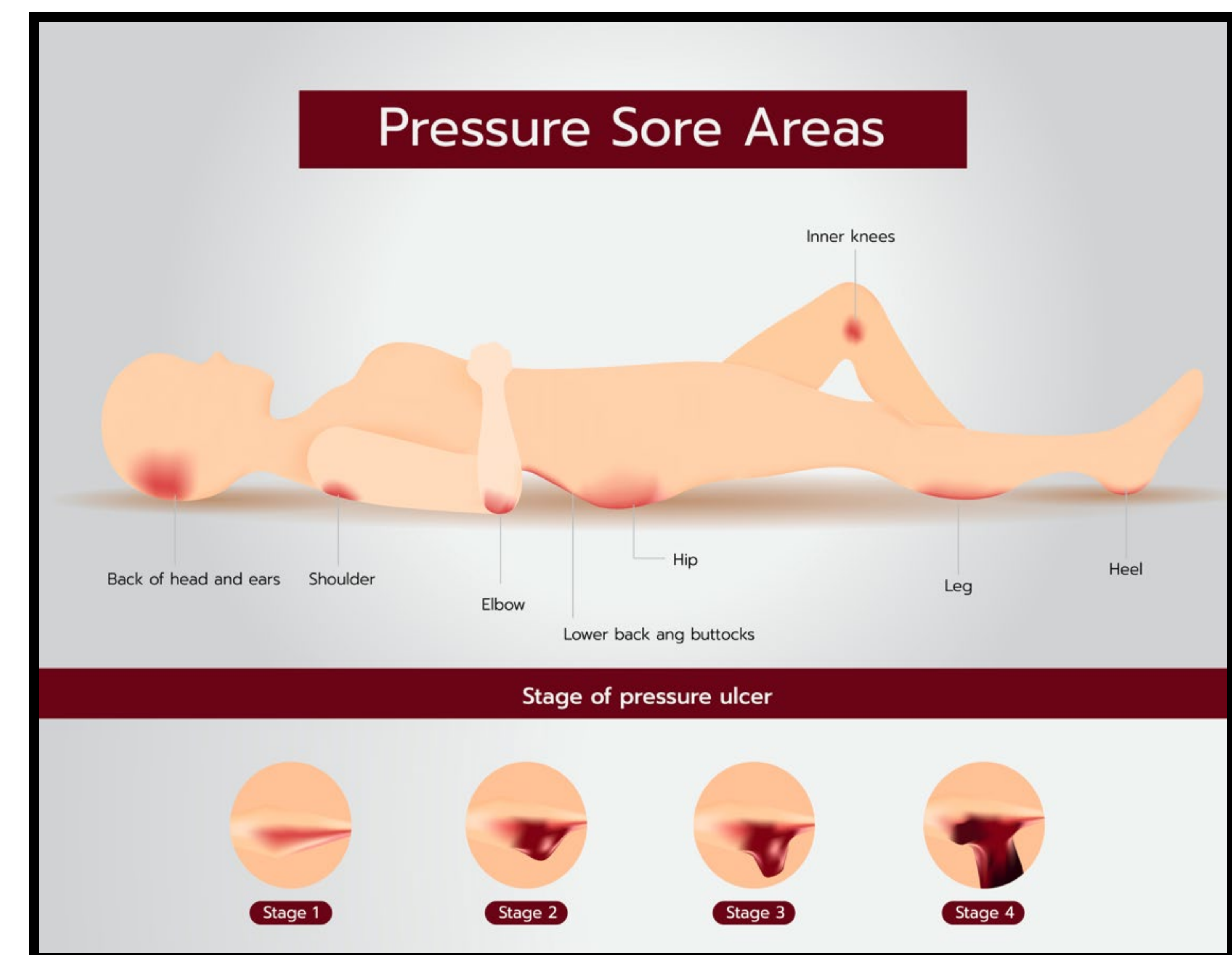
- RN's update and document their Braden scores by 0900 (2100 for night shift).
- Braden Scores of 18 and below will be placed on the "turn team list".
- Staff is paired together at designated times to go turn all patients on the list to offload pressure on high-risk pressure areas and eliminating barriers that increase risk of HAPI'S such as: cleaning soiled patients, applying wedges if missing, elevating heels etc.
- Shift change both shift turn patients together.

RESULTS

- Clinical significance noted in the reduction of HAPI's resulting into decreasing harm.
- Nursing staff has positively embraced the practice and are working cohesively together.

CONCLUSIONS

- Turning patients every 2 hours facilitates blood flow at high-pressure areas simultaneously reducing friction and shear. This practice fosters a more proactive approach among the nursing team to promote and maintain skin integrity.



REFERENCE

Pressure ulcer stages and pressure injury prevention [Image Guide] / STERIS. (n.d.). <https://www.steris.com/healthcare/knowledge-center/surgical-equipment/pressure-ulcer-stages-prevention>

