Reducing the prevalence of pressure ulcers and the rate of pressure ulcer-related hospitalizations among older adults is a National Goal in the United States. Pressure ulcers are both a high-cost and high-volume adverse event (see VUMC 2012 Quality Pillar Goals).

Pressure ulcers are now reportable to state and federal agencies. The information is placed in databases that can be accessed by the public. Hospital acquired conditions such as Stage II and Stage IV pressure ulcers are not reimbursable by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). CMS Services have challenged acute care hospitals to link quality and financial performance. This challenge has opened up opportunities for acute care hospitals to reduce or even eliminate hospital-acquired pressure ulcers (CMA, 2012). Below is a learning tool that will assist you in preventing pressure ulcers in your surgical patient population:

**Perioperative Services’ Team**

**SWAT Approach to Pressure Ulcer Prevention**

**Special Weapon: (SW)**

Perioperative PUP Task Force, a multidisciplinary group of knowledge experts, utilizing evidence-based practice pressure ulcer prevention methods/tactics to protect our surgical patients.

**And Tactics: (AT)**

- Review of individual pressure ulcer cases: a learning exercise that will lead to further prevention of pressure ulcers
- Assessment of patient’s skin pre & post operatively
- Move patient by lifting not pulling across surfaces
- Reduce number of sheets/material between patient and bed surface (multiple layers increase shirring effect)
- Remove any wet or damp sheets from patients
- Individualize patient positioning based on patients clinical and nutritional status
- Report (handover/off) any patient skin issues from OR to PACU
- Report (handover/off) any patient skin issues from PACU to Next Level of Care
- Research study to determine if there is a correlation between individualized positioning during the intra-operative phase of care and prevention of pressure ulcers (contributing to Nursing’s body of knowledge).
IN MEMORIUM

Dorothy “Dottie” Cumbee Nuusila

We would like to honor our fellow nurse who has died and her lifetime commitment to caring. We acknowledge her nursing practice and know that her accomplishments can only be measured in the lives she affected with her knowledge, dedication and caring. She will be greatly missed by her family and all the people she touched.

Quality Corner: Tips for Using Dollars & Sense

Unusual Uses for Peanut Butter

1. Hide your dog’s medicine in a lump of peanut butter.
2. Use as bait in a mouse trap. Mice actually prefer it to cheese!
3. Rid your home of fish smell by adding a spoonful of peanut butter to the frying pan while cooking the fish.
4. Use to remove gum from hair, clothing and carpets.
5. Remove leftover adhesive from price tags or stickers by rubbing surface with peanut butter.

Things to Buy Cheaper in July

Butter (freezes well for up to 6 months)
Grills
Furniture
Broadway tickets
Paint
Passwords are intended to help prevent unauthorized access to VUMC’s secure systems, and may not be shared. To keep confidential and personal information secure from unauthorized access, you must keep the password secret, change the password often (or when prompted), and report to the Privacy Office if anyone is sharing or working under another users’ Password.

**Developing Strong Passwords:**

The following guidelines can help you create passwords that increase the level of difficulty and the time needed for someone to determine your password.

**Always:**
- Use a minimum of 7-8 characters
- Include numbers, letters (both upper and lower case), and special characters (when applicable)

**Avoid:**
- Any word in any language spelled either forward or backward
- Numbers that reference dates, phone numbers, Social Security numbers, etc.
- Made up words or nicknames someone might associate with you
- Repeating characters

**Do:**
- Memorize your password or store it in a secure place
- Use care when entering your password in front of others
- Immediately change your password if you suspect it may have been compromised.
- Report any potential security breach to the Privacy Office or Information Security
- Logout whenever you are away from your desk or finished for the day

**Don’t:**
- Share your password with anyone
- Login to allow others to use your access
- Use anyone else’s access
- Don’t make your username a version of your password

**Creating a strong password that you will remember takes some thought.**

**Remember:** Sharing ID/password with another person or working under another person’s ID/password that allows access to confidential information or patient information is a Level 3 Violation according to the Sanctions for Privacy and Information Security Violations Policy — OP 10-40.32 *Operations Policy, 10-40.32, “Sanctions for Privacy and Information Security Violations”*
Butterflies taste with their feet.

A duck’s quack doesn’t echo, and no one knows why.

Elephants are the only animals that can’t jump.

It’s possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.

A snail can sleep for over 3 years.

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.
In this section of the *Modus Operandi* we would like to honor those faculty and staff members who exemplify the Vanderbilt Medical Center Credo. These employees have “gone the extra mile” in personifying the true ideal of our credo.

**Congratulations to these special faculty and staff!**

**Credo**

- We provide excellence in health care, research and education.
- We treat others as we wish to be treated.
- We continuously evaluate and improve our performance.

**Periop Credo Heroes**

(Names contributed by Perioperative Managers and Directors)

---

**MCE Staff Credo Heroes**

HUGE contrats and thanks to all the **MCE staff and leadership**. For the first time in Periop history the MCE in-patient OR received the Top Performer Award from PRC! This equates to 100% excellent scores for the year from their patient population concerning their care while in MCE for surgery. **I am so very proud of all of them!**

Cindy Kildgore

OR Director, MCE/GYN/VOR

---

**MCE Credo Hero**

Our Credo Hero for this month is **Randy Joheson,** RN 2. Randy is extremely positive and reliable. He will go out of his way to be a team player and do for others. Along with being a great nurse he is a wonderfully devoted son. Randy is a mentor in our unit. Thank you, Randy!

Vickie Montei & The MCE Leadership Team

---

**TVC Credo Heroes**

Michelle Patterson        Dianne Brewer
Ann White                  Micelle Rooks
Scott Boyte                Daniel Nelson
Sharon Pendleton           Angie Smith
Kim Baptiste               Cindi Wildbur
Kelly McDaniel             Misti Taylor
Giselle Joines             Chanel King
Chad Carnahan              Jacqui Dow
Neil Jess                  Lauren Kroh

Thanks to each and every one!

**Beki Kazanoﬁski**

Patient Care Manager

Oto/Oral/Ophthalmology/Plastic Surgery
July

Tamika Boyd, Care Partner, MCE HR/PACU
Maygan Chase, PSR 1, VPEC-VUH
Laura Curtis, RN-2, MCE HR/PACU
Patricia Gibson, RN-3, Main HR/PACU
Mallory Hamden, PCT, VPEC-VUH
LaSharlee Pearson, CSP Tech
Whitney Peterson, RN, PRN Main HR/PACU
Austin Rudder, PCT, VPEC-VUH
Monica Satterwhite, NP, VPEC-VUH
Rachael M. Stanley, PCT, VPEC-OHO

Congrats to **Kelly McDaniel** for being promoted to HGTV Charge Nurse!!

“Congratulations to **Jacqueline Dow**, TVC OR, who successfully challenged the VPNPP clinical ladder and is now a proud RN 3!”

“Congratulations to **Christin Tomes**, MCE PACU, who successfully challenged the VPNPP clinical ladder and is now a proud RN 4!”

“Congratulations to **Dora Haney-Snider**, N/E/W, who successfully passed her boards and is now a proud RN!”

Reminder of Quarterly Multidisciplinary Perioperative Morbidity & Mortality Improvement Conference Dates for 2012:

- Friday, September 14, 2012
- Friday, December 7, 2012
- Friday, March 1, 2013

6:30—8:00 a.m. Langford Auditorium
(Breakfast 6:00—6:30 a.m. Langford Lobby)
For more information about the VUMC hand hygiene program, please visit: [www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/handhygiene](http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/handhygiene).

If you have any thoughts on how to improve compliance, please email the hand hygiene committee at handhygiene@vanderbilt.edu. Clean Hands Save Lives!