

Quality Improvement Project to Reduce Positional Ear Pressure Injuries In Intensive Care Unit

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Abstract

Purpose: To determine if a positioning device would assist in decreasing ear positional pressure injuries

Method: Current method of using rolled towels, blankets, pillows and donuts was evaluated. Other options were researched, selection was made to use fluidized positioners and a new criteria was developed for the selected product. All nursing staff for all 6 ICUs were educated before implementation. The product was implemented and initial audit showed HAPI reduction to zero. Following audits showed need for on-going education for correct product use and correct patient positioning

Results: The product was implemented and initial audit showed HAPI reduction to zero. Following audits showed need for on-going education for correct product use and correct patient positioning. Overall there was a 45% decrease in hospital acquired ear pressure injuries from the previous year.

Conclusion: The fluidized positioner is effective in reducing ear pressure injuries for patients in the ICU. There is a need for ongoing monitoring of correct patient positioning and staff turnover necessitates repeated education. To meet these needs there is planning for Leadership rounding and development of unit champions for spot checks in the units.