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2018

## Pressure Injury Prevention for Urology Surgical Procedures: A QI Initiative

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### Recommended Citation

Wickham, Azadeh; Clay, Pat; and Gibbs, Kate, "Pressure Injury Prevention for Urology Surgical Procedures: A QI Initiative" (2018). *Posters*. 51.

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# Pressure Injury Prevention for Urology Surgical Procedures: A QI initiative

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## Background

- Perioperative pressure injury is defined as any pressure related injury, including non-blanchable erythema, purple discoloration, or blistering associated with operating room positioning
- Pressure Injuries (PI) are one of the leading causes of harm in healthcare settings
- Limited literature is available about PI prevention in pediatric surgical patients
- Operating room factors impacting PI development:
  - Positioning
  - Anesthesia
  - Duration of surgery
  - Patient co-morbidities

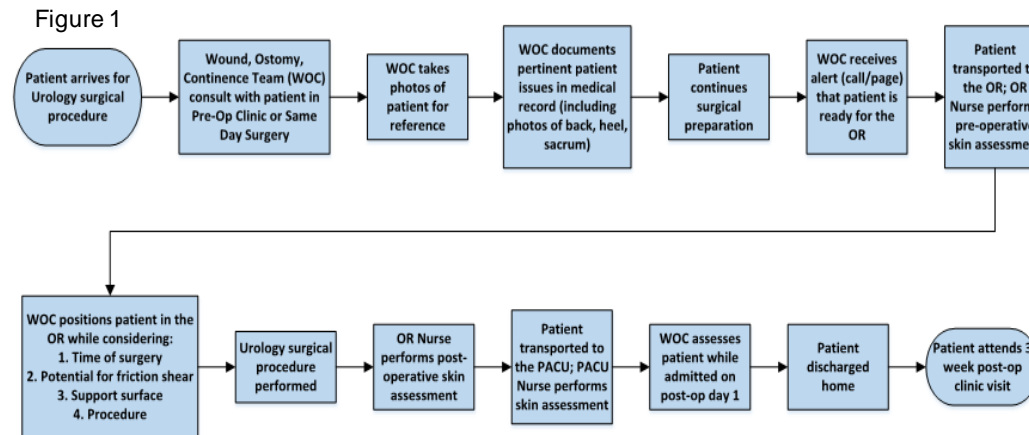
## Objectives

In January 2018, the Urology department initiated a QI project on pressure injury prevention for Urology surgical procedures with the goal of:

- Establishing a patient-specific pressure injury prevention process
- Improving identification of at-risk patients
- Performing appropriate interventions related to surgical positioning
- Increasing staff knowledge and awareness of skin assessment
- Increasing staff knowledge of prevention of preoperative pressure injuries

## Methods

- After recognizing pressure injuries in Urology patients, the Urology department gathered an interdisciplinary workgroup
- High risk Urology surgical procedures were identified
- Wound Care and Urology collaborated to determine intervention opportunities
- A process involving a pre-surgical WOC consult, operating room positioning (guided by the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel clinical practice guidelines for the operating room), and post-operative follow-up was trialed and adopted (Figure 1)



## Results

- Prior to this patient-specific prevention process, pressure injuries were identified in this population
- Zero Urology perioperative pressure injuries have been identified since the initiation of this project
- The WOC and Urology departments have significantly increased their collaboration
- Staff are more aware of and interested in pressure injury prevention strategies

## Conclusion

- The interdisciplinary collaboration between the Urology department and a wound care RN has shown to be successful in prevention of pressure injuries during surgical procedures
- Staff are receptive and more actively engaged in the process
- The team plans to continue work on this process to develop shared ownership and knowledge of pressure injury prevention within other surgical specialties.

## Acknowledgments

The team would like to thank the Urology department and the Operating Room staff who participate in these surgical procedures.