

## **Abstract**

**Background:** A quality improvement project was conducted in the southeast United States. The hospital had a pressure ulcer prevalence rate of 0.11 for stage III, stage IV and unstable pressure ulcers reported in 2018 to government agencies. An evidence-based education program was developed to provide instruction to nurses who provide bedside care.

**Aims:** The project sought to determine the effectiveness of an educational intervention directed at teaching bedside nurses about the etiology and management of pressure ulcers.

**Methods:** A review of quality improvement studies regarding pressure ulcers was used to formulate an educational presentation tailored to bedside nurses. Piper's Pressure Ulcer Knowledge Test was used to determine the level of pressure ulcer knowledge by the nursing staff. A chart review was conducted for the 60-day period prior to, and following the education, to determine the effectiveness of the pressure ulcer education intervention.

**Results:** A comparison of the education, pre and post, showed a statistically significant improvement of the mean test scores and there was a reduction of pressure ulcer prevalence during the post-education period beginning April 28, 2019 until June 28, 2019.

**Conclusion:** The evidence-based educational program designed for nurses showed a reduction in the occurrence of pressure ulcers. Due to the small sample size for the educational program and the limited (120-day) timespan, further investigation should be conducted.

**Linked Evidence into Action:** The data demonstrated benefits in the reduction of pressure ulcers after evidence-based strategies were shared with nurses.