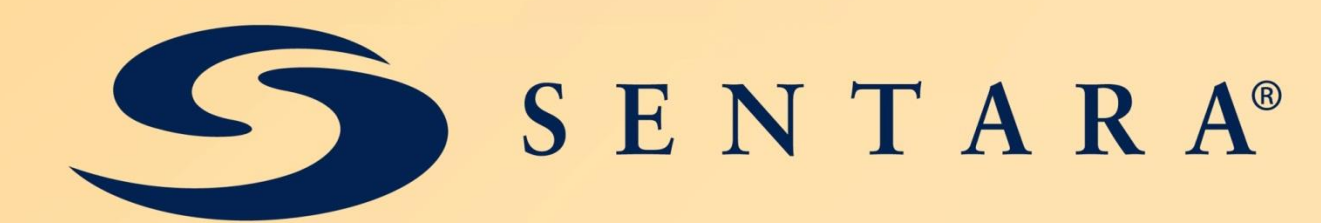




sentara nurse

4 Eyes Assessment, Implementation, and Follow-up

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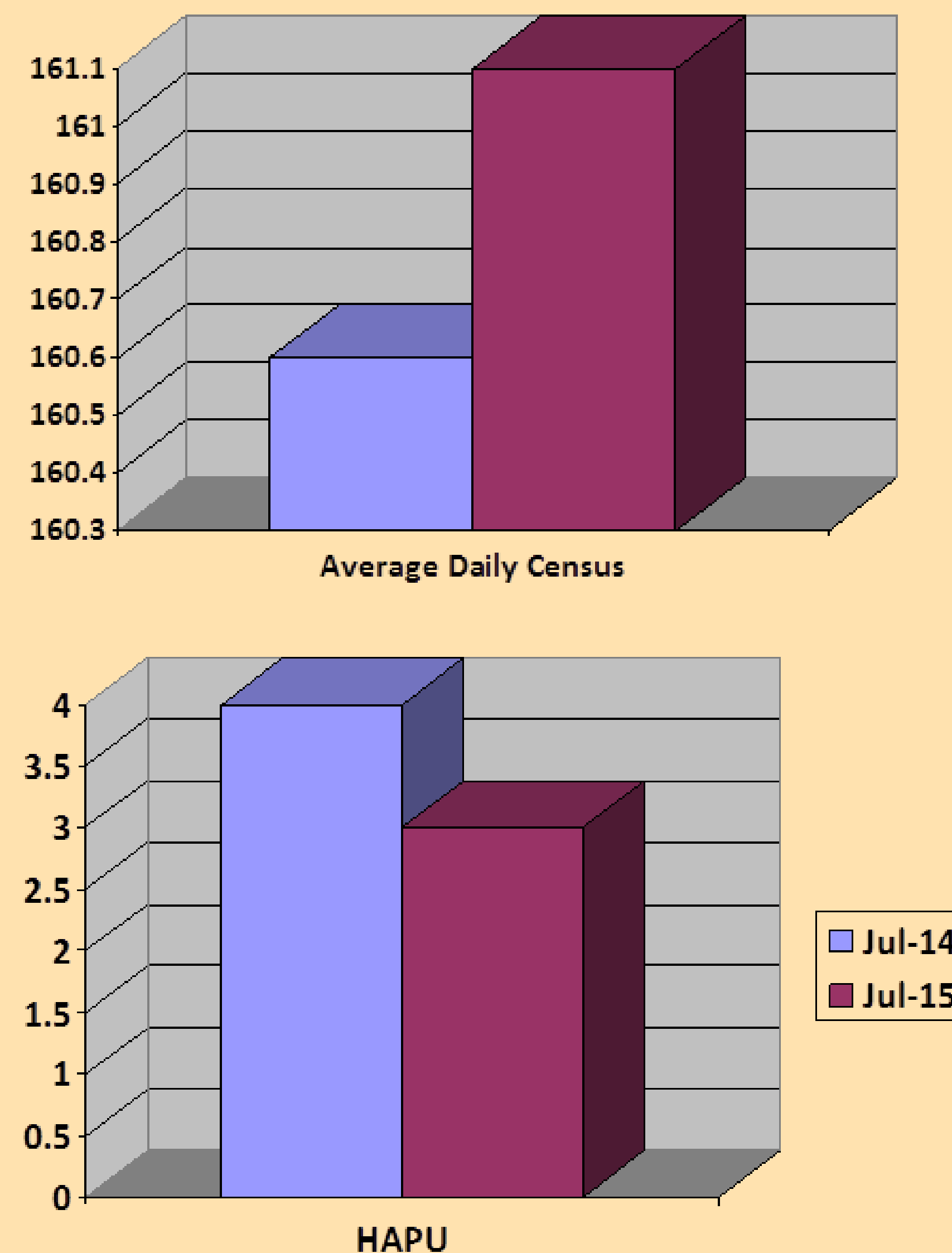


Background

- Location: Rural, 238-bed community hospital in the Shenandoah Valley
- Improvement needed: incidence of hospital acquired pressure ulcers (HAPU)
- 2014 total # HAPU: 28 (goal: 22 or less)
- 2015 goal: 19 or less facility acquired stage II or greater pressure ulcers
- While difficult to determine a single source for the development of pressure ulcers, several areas were identified for improvement.
- The Institution of Healthcare as cited by (Li & Korniewicz, 2012) estimate “2.5 million patients in the USA develop pressure ulcers each year.”
- The financial impact of HAPU are substantial costing over \$17,000 per case and increasing the patient’s risk for further complications (Li & Korniewicz).

Methods and Materials

- To meet the goal and improve the quality of care a **multi-disciplinary skin steering committee** was formed.
- “NO Pressure” campaign: focused on staff awareness
- The team developed education for staff on
 - General skin assessment skills
 - Braden Scale
 - Preventative measures
- March 2015: presented to all NCPS and RNs during quarterly competencies
- June 2015: education on the 4 Eyes assessment for all inpatient nurses.
- 4 eyes assessment: two RNs assess a patient’s skin on every admission and transfer, focusing on pressure points.
- 4 eyes assessment: reduces chance of having present on admission pressure ulcers later to be claimed as hospital acquired (Barker, Kamar, Tyndall, White, Hutchinson, Klopfer, & Weller, 2012).
- With many new processes follow up does not always occur with staff to identify barriers/successes. As a leader it is vital to assess staff’s feedback and use it appropriately to make changes as needed with any new implementations to ensure successful implementation (Tomey, 2008).



- Education for the 4 Eyes Assessment was completed in June with the quarterly competencies. 100% of the RNS from the two selected units for audit completed the competency training.
- The data for the month of July showed that one audited unit had a 79% completion rate of the 4 Eyes Assessment on admission and transfer and the other unit had a 62.5% completion rate.
- A factor that affected the compliance rate: within the first week patients who were already admitted did not have the intervention added to the EHR nurses’ work list to provide a visual reminder to staff to document the intervention .



Implications for Future QI

- Continued follow up with staff and verifying compliance will be carried through into the future to improve the prevention of HAPU.
- When interviewing staff it is difficult to obtain clear and honest feedback in person. To modify this factor a comment box was initiated; however, there was poor participation. The lack of participation could be for various reasons, location of comment box, length of time box was placed on unit, lack of initial information, lack of staff interest, and lack of time to name a few barriers.

Relevance to Clinical Practice

- With a change of only one HAPU over the course of this data collection period it is recognized the time period is too short to attribute the change to the implementation of the 4 Eyes Assessment.
- Age, length of stay, and acuity are all factors to be considered with pressure ulcers prevention. While this project did not obtain any related data, these factors should be taken into consideration when planning interventions.
- Nursing workload is an additional factor that needs to be considered when assessing the compliance rate and the overall HAPU management.

Conclusions

- RNs must be engaged and have the drive to want to decrease the organization's number of HAPU.
- Although the overall number of HAPU decreased by one in comparison of July 2014 and July 2015, there are several variables that could have affected the total number and it cannot be entirely credited to the implementation of the 4 Eyes Assessment.
- Staff reported appreciation for following up on a new intervention that was initiated .
- A multidisciplinary approach enhanced communication and helped develop trust within the team

A full list of references are available upon request.