Management of the Pediatric Patient’s Integumentary System
(addresses skin inspection, pressure ulcer risk assessment and prevention, management of impairment)

Learning and Development Curriculum

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Competency: Provides care to patients with potential or actual skin impairment/break down of skin integrity.

Performance Criteria

Skin Inspection and Assessment
1. Completes CHEX Web-based Training course(s) with a passing score on the post-test:
   • Pediatric Assessment: The Integumentary System
2. Conducts a comprehensive assessment of the pediatric patient’s integumentary system at the time of admission and reassesses at a frequency according to organizational policy and procedure.
3. Utilizes specific questions to obtain the history of the pediatric patient’s integumentary system.
4. Conducts routine assessment of the skin under all medical devices (e.g., oxygen, drainage tubes/catheters, orthotics, etc.), and in contact with devices such as wheelchairs and other specialty support surfaces.
5. Recognizes and differentiates normal and abnormal assessment findings upon completion of the pediatric integumentary exam.
6. Evaluates the patient’s home use of a wheelchair, orthotics, medical devices, support surfaces and other such items and incorporates related patient education into the discharge planning process.

Pressure Ulcer Risk Assessment
7. Completes CHEX Web-based Training course(s) with a passing score on the post-test:
   • Introduction to Pressure Ulcers in the Pediatric Population (also includes maintenance of skin integrity and pressure ulcer prevention strategies, and introduction to staging)
8. Assesses the pediatric patient’s risk of pressure ulcer development using a standardized, validated risk assessment tool (specific to the organization) at the time of admission and reassesses at a frequency according to organizational policy and procedure.
9. Assesses the patient’s status regarding mobility, activity, sensory perception, moisture, friction/shear, nutrition and tissue perfusion/oxygenation, as well device-related (e.g., noninvasive ventilatory masks, orthotics, tubing, etc.) risk factors, when determining the patient’s risk for skin breakdown.
10. Assesses the need for specialty support surfaces and/or specialty bed.

Maintenance of Skin Integrity and Pressure Ulcer Prevention
11. Develops and implements an individualized program of skin care for assigned patients.
12. Manages the patient’s exposure to moisture and drainage, minimizing the occurrence of maceration, through selection of appropriate dressings, protective barriers, absorptive products and containment devices.
13. Implements measures to prevent pressure ulcer development.
   • Demonstrates proper positioning and repositioning of patients.
   • Monitors the proper positioning of medical devices, selects and uses appropriate interface layers and padding under medical devices, and routinely assesses the skin condition under all medical devices.
   • Monitors and implements nutritional interventions to decrease pressure ulcer occurrence and promote healing.
   • Selects and utilizes support surfaces based upon the assessed needs of the patient.
**Wound Inspection and Assessment**
14. Completes CHEX Web-based Training course(s) with a passing score on the post-test:
   - Pressure Ulcers in the Pediatric Population: Staging and Care
15. Differentiates pressure ulcers from other types of alterations in skin integrity.
16. Utilizes a validated pressure ulcer classification system to document the level of tissue loss.
17. Based on clinical expertise, performs a comprehensive assessment of the pressure ulcer which minimally includes location, staging, measurement, exudate, wound bed characteristics, pain, surrounding skin, tunnel/sinus tract and undermining, and type, intactness and appropriateness of dressings, at a frequency according to organizational policy and procedure.
18. Assesses and measures the degree of wound healing using a validated measurement tool.

**Wound Care Management**
19. As assigned, according to clinical expertise level, correctly performs wound care including debridement, cleansing, dressings, pressure relief and pain control, following accepted standards of practice and organizational-specific wound care guidelines/treatment algorithm.
20. Makes referral to and consults with Wound, Ostomy, Continence (WOC) certified RN, CNS, NP and/or MD who has expertise in skin/wound care, according to the assessed needs of the patient.

**Documentation**
21. Documents risk and skin assessment findings, including presence or absence of existing pressure ulcer/wound, prevention strategies and treatment measures according to organizational guidelines.

**Patient/Family Education and Discharge Planning**
22. Educates patient and family on optimal skin care, pressure ulcer prevention strategies and wound care management, as applicable.

**Recommended Learning Activities**

**Learner Activities** (knowledge, skills and application)

**CHEX Web-Based Training** (knowledge)
1. Pediatric Assessment: The Integumentary System
2. Introduction to Pressure Ulcers in the Pediatric Population
3. Pressure Ulcers in the Pediatric Population: Staging and Care
4. Pressure Ulcer Staging Assessment

**Other Self-Paced Activities** (knowledge)
1. Skin Inspection and Risk Assessment Scales and Skin Guidelines of Care: Review of Policies/Procedures and Guidelines of Care
   a. Review organizational-specific skin inspection and risk assessment scales (such as Braden, Braden Q) and related policies and procedures.
   b. Review organizational-specific policies/procedures and guidelines of care related to skin care, skin breakdown and pressure ulcer prevention.
2. Wound Assessment (basic) and Basics of Wound Prevention and Healing: Review of Skin and Wound Care Guidelines
   a. Review organizational-specific skin care, skin breakdown (including diaper dermatitis) and wound care guidelines.

**Preceptor-led Activities** (skills and application)
1. Patient Skin Abnormalities/Wound Assessments (Skin Inspection Assessment and Risk Assessment Scales and Skin Guidelines of Care):
   - Using organizational-specific skin assessment scales/scoring tools, complete a head-to-toe skin inspection assessment on at least five patients with different types of skin conditions and/or wounds (reference photos of patients with skin conditions may also be used, if available) and review interpretation of results with assigned preceptor.
   - Using organizational-specific skin risk assessment scales/scoring tools, complete a skin risk assessment on at least five patients.
   - Using standard staging guidelines, assess and stage the pressure ulcer wounds of at least five patients.
2. Provision of Patient Wound Care (Wound Assessment (basic) and Basics of Wound Prevention and Healing):
Under the guidance of the assigned preceptor and following organizational-specific wound care guidelines, provide wound care to at least three patients with different degrees/stages and types of wounds.

3. Patient Education and Discharge Planning:
Under the guidance of the assigned preceptor, assess at least three patient’s home use of wheelchair, orthotics, medical devices, support surfaces and other such items, and include related patient education and consultation/orders into the discharge planning process.

Instructor-led Activity (skills and application)
1. Skin Breakdown and Wound Care Management (Wound Assessment (basic) and Basics of Wound Prevention and Healing):
Attend a learning session(s) (e.g., class, skills fair, etc.) focused on current skin breakdown prevention strategies, pressure ulcer/wound staging and wound care management, including the following objectives:
   • Discuss the types of wounds and pressure ulcers commonly encountered in the pediatric population.
   • Practice skin inspection assessment and scoring/staging using standardized tools (specific to the organization) and guidelines utilizing reference photos of patients with a variety of skin conditions and/or wounds.
   • Explain the purpose of a skin risk assessment and differentiate from a skin inspection assessment.
   • Discuss organizational-specific skin risk assessment scale(s), including the intended patient population, assessment specifics related to scoring, implications of scoring results, frequency of assessments, etc.
   • Explain the phases of wound healing and the practical applications of each phase.
   • State the goals of wound treatment.
   • List local and systemic indications of wound infection.
   • Discuss current treatment measures and products, including basic dressing categories, related to the care of wounds seen in the pediatric population.

Optional Learning Activities
1. Read the following journal article:

2. Read the article 5 Million Lives Campaign How-to Guide: Preventing Pressure Ulcers Pediatric Supplement found on IHI’s website at http://www.ihi.org/IHI/Programs/Campaign/PressureUlcers

3. Complete the CHEX WBTs:
   • Neonatal Skin Care
   • Neonatal Skin Care: Extremely Low Birth Weight Infant

4. Review the literature for additional articles, such as those below, related to evidence-based practice of pediatric wound prevention and management, and share findings with colleagues through informal or formal methods.

5. Review the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicator’s (NDNQI) Pressure Ulcer Training modules at https://www.nursingquality.org/ndnqipressureulcetertraining/Default.aspx

6. Attend additional learning events related to evidence-based practice of pediatric wound prevention and management.
Shared Materials for Educators

1. PowerPoint Presentations for Instructor-led Classes
   a. Centering on Skin Integrity: Are Skin Problems Really an Issue in Pediatrics?
      Kim Lorence, MS, RN, CPNP
      Clinical Education Specialist
      Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota
   b. Skin Breakdown/Pressure Ulcer Prevention
      Sharon Nielsen, BSN, RNC, CWCN, CRNI
      Wound and Vascular Access Service Consultant
      Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center

2. Case Scenario: Skin Integrity Scenarios with Assessment Questions
   Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota
   Note: Can be used in an ILT session as a facilitated group discussion or as an independent learner activity.
   Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota uses the activity in a Competency Fair.

3. Course Outline: Skin Risk Assessment and Wound Care ILT Course Outline (example)

Shared Materials for Organizations, Educators and Learners

Skin and Wound Care-related Guidelines
- St. Louis Children's Hospital Diaper Care and Diaper Dermatitis Guideline
- Seattle Children's Hospital Wound and Skin Guideline of Care