

Perley Health's Quick Tips

6 Key Elements of an Effective Skin and Wound Care Program



**Perley
Health**

Centre of Excellence
in Frailty-Informed Care™

Nothing short of excellent.

The Impact on Perley Health

By introducing these six key elements in 2021, Perley Health sustainably achieved

52%

decrease in the average of worsening pressure injuries

56%

decrease in the average of skin and wound infection rates

6 Key Elements Implemented by Perley Health

1- Validate the Data

This will become your baseline data from which you will measure the impact of your solutions.

- Wounds can be mistaken for pressure injuries
 - ✓ Confirm etiologies of all wounds.
- Ensure the accuracy of this data
 - ✓ Establish pressure injury definitions.
 - ✓ Educate the care team on different wound etiologies.
 - ✓ Ongoing assessments of wounds by trained wound care champions.

2- Standardize Assessments

- Be evidenced based
 - ✔ Choose validated skin and wound assessment tools.
 - ✔ Custom make your own evidence-informed assessments, if needed.

3- Standardize Treatment Scheduling

- Make scheduling tasks faster and clearer
 - ✔ Choose one accessible location for scheduling treatments.
 - ✔ Create editable text templates for wound care tasks.
 - ✔ Synchronize scheduling frequencies of wound tasks with other routine schedules (i.e. Aligning wound dressing changes with bath times).

4- Streamline Product Supply

- Make point-of-care decisions easier, faster and safer
 - ✔ Offer a limited, but curated, supply of skin and wound care products.
- Reduce wasted products
 - ✔ Store product supply in designated, organized spaces.
 - ✔ Plan a clear re-ordering process.

5- Avoid Contamination

- Target the biofilm
 - ✔ Use a wound cleanser that contains surfactant.
- Remove vectors
 - ✔ Do away with wound carts and bins, as they carry pathogens.

- Keep it sterile
 - ✓ Use gauze in individual packages.
- Create a clean treatment surface
 - ✓ Don't use towels or cloths under wound treatments. Switch to clean procedural pads instead.

6- Invest in Key Resources

- Enhance the quality of your Skin and Wound Care Program
 - ✓ Hire or contact certified skin and wound care specialists.
 - ✓ Purchase tools to make wound care assessment and treatment easier, faster and more effective.
 - ✓ Contact the knowledge translation team at Perley Health.

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For more information visit:
PerleyHealth.ca/oltca-2023



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