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Research Aims:
The purpose of the inter-rater reliability study at UHS was to assess the nurses’ reliability of using the Braden Scale for pressure ulcer risk.

What is Inter-Rater Reliability?
“The degree in which two observers or raters, operating independently, assign the same ratings or values for an attribute being measured or observed.”
(Polit & Beck 2004)

What is the importance of Inter-Rater Reliability?
- Treatment decisions are made based on raters’ skills (UHS PCS Skin Care Guidelines)
- Poor rating skills may place patients at risk
- Allows for consistency between providers
- Ensure accuracy of data collection (pressure ulcers)

Who Supports Inter-Rater Reliability?
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
- American Nurses Association

Methods:
- Seven nursing units volunteered to participate:
  - TICU, MCCU, STICU, IPCU, 7th Floor Surgery, 12th Floor Hartman, 9th Floor General Medicine
- Two nurses of equal ability were selected from each unit
- Nurses working independent of each other were asked to score the Braden Scale on 20 patients
- Tool
  - Braden Scale: Used for predicting pressure sore risk (figure 1)
  - Scale consists of 6 categories:
    - Sensory, Moisture, Activity, Mobility, Nutrition, Friction Shear
- Results were input into SPSS for statistical calculation
- Metric
  - One unit had an active education program for the Braden Scale
  - Results of the pressure ulcer survey at UHS reported that of the 387 nurses that participated in the survey, 35% reported receiving formal training on the Braden Scale.

Results:
- The unit with an education program reported inter-rater reliability of: Sensory 0.961-1.000, Moisture 0.881-0.943, Activity 0.926-0.941, Mobility 0.939-0.974, Nutrition 0.884-0.916, and Friction 0.701-0.911.
- The units with no formal training program reported inter-rater reliability of: Sensory 0.220-0.947, Moisture 0.093-0.640, Activity 0.468-0.934, Mobility 0.651-0.906, Nutrition 0.044-0.543, and Friction 0.486-0.766.

Next Steps:
- Implement an education program targeting the specific Braden Scale indicators.
- Perform inter-rater reliability studies post implementation to measure the effectiveness of the education program.