

# CHECKMATE: IMPROVING TWO-NURSE SKIN CHECK COMPLIANCE ON A PEDIATRIC SURGICAL-TRAUMA ACUTE CARE UNIT

Sophia Arriazola Burke, BSN, RN, CPN; Thalia Huynh, MSN, RN, CPN; Alyssa Twardowski, BSN, RN, CPN; Erika Rankin, BSN, RN, CPN & Teresa Fleharty, MSN, RN, CPN

Visual reminders increase compliance of the concurrent two-nurse skin check process upon admission.

## Overview

Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital implemented the protocol of having a concurrent two-nurse skin assessment - upon admission to the surgical-trauma acute care unit - within 24 hours. Lack of adherence to this process has led to a delay in identification and management of skin abnormalities. The goal of this project was to provide staff with the opportunity to increase compliance of concurrent two-nurse skin checks upon admission to the unit, using visual reminders placed on patient doors. Results demonstrated that physical and visual reminders increase compliance of the concurrent two-nurse skin check process.

## Background

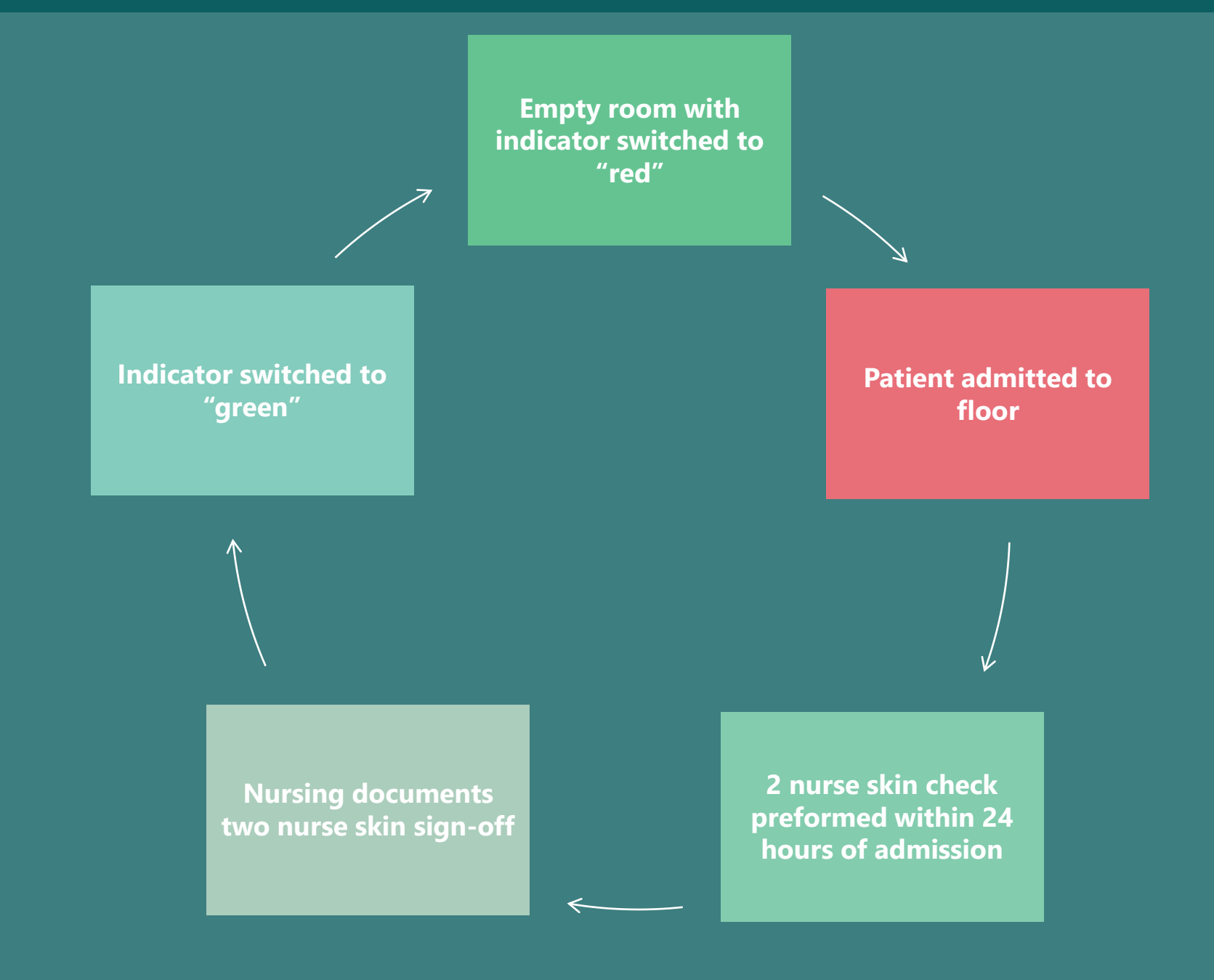
Acute care pediatric patients often have complex medical histories and can be admitted for serious trauma cases (such as motor vehicle accidents). This patient population is known to have a high prevalence of skin abnormalities. Research has shown that assessing patient’s skin upon arrival to the unit increases the likelihood of identifying already present skin abnormalities, such as contusions, abrasions, scars and, most importantly, pressure injuries (Singleton et al., 2023; Strand & Mulkey, 2023; Zhao et al., 2023).

## Purpose

- Hospital protocol is to have a two-nurse skin assessment within 24 hours of admission to the unit, to identify present skin abnormalities and assess patient's level of risk for hospital acquired pressure injuries.
- Low compliance of the two-nurse skin assessment process can lead to delay in identification and management of skin abnormalities.
- Placing a visual reminder for staff to complete and document a two-nurse skin check was chosen as the intervention, after discussion with staff regarding barriers to documentation.

## Intervention

- A red-green indicator was attached to the patient door and is in the “red” position prior to admission.
- Concurrent two-nurse skin checks consist of checking the entirety of the patient body and assessing for any current skin abnormalities.
- If skin abnormalities are identified, the nurse will notify the physicians and place a wound consult as needed.
- The bedside nurse would then slide the indicator to “green” once the concurrent two-nurse skin assessment was both completed and documented in the EMR.
- Compliance is defined as documenting the concurrent two-nurse skin check in the EMR within the admission window.
- Compliance is audited monthly.



## Outcomes and Impact

- Compliance was calculated by comparing number of patients admitted to the number assessed and creating a difference score.
- The lower the difference score, the higher the compliance.
- The data shows a significant difference in concurrent two-nurse skin check compliance (M= 1.9, SD= 2.51) when compared to pre-intervention compliance (M= 5.2, SD= 1.92, t(5)= 2.81, p< 0.05).
- This demonstrates that even an intervention such as a small visual reminder can greatly improve adherence to protocol and ultimately improve patient outcomes.



### References

1. Singleton, E.; Jenkins, L.; Phearman, L. & Stewart, S. (2023). Implementation of 4 Eyes Skin Assessment in the Pediatric PACU. Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing, 38(4), e29.
2. Strand, L.; Dennee, J. & Mulkey, D. (2023). Implementing a Two-RN Skin Assessment to Reduce Hospital-Acquired Pressure Injuries. Medsurg Nursing, 32(4), 227-266.
3. Zhao, J.; Cao, Y.; Cheng, Y.; Sun, H.; Chen, T.; Zhong, Y. & Wang, J. (2021). Outcomes of present-on-admission pressure injuries at discharge and potential prognostic factors: a historical cohort study in China. Journal of Tissue Viability, 30(4), 576-581