

A Quality-Improvement Project to Reduce Prevalence of Pressure Ulcers Among Home Care Patients at DFMC-Madinat Zayed

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Background: ALDhafra Family medicine Center (DFMC) Home health care (HHC) team serves home-bound patients. In 2019-2020, 104 needed frequent visits and 69 that needed occasional visits and 18% were affected by pressure ulcers or some degree of skin breakdown.

Aim: Our aim from this quality improvement project was to improve patients' outcomes by reducing the prevalence of pressure ulcers by 5%, identifying areas for improvement in prevention of pressure ulcers, and increasing the adoption of preventive strategies in home care areas

Methods: Using Performance Improvement Methodology (Plan, Do, Check, Act, PDCA), current status was documented and patient care assessment measures audited. A logic model was devised, data analysis performed, and areas of improvement identified.

Results: Setting a patient repositioning schedule, using pressure reduction devices e.g. foam water gel, air mattress, proper nutritional and skin care assessment, concentration on new staff education; supporting the HHC team with interdisciplinary team support including primary care physician, dermatologist, dietician, podiatrists, home and wound care nurses and surgeons all improved patient's condition and reduced prevalence of pressure ulcer from 18% to 4%. We also found that conclude have private home health care companies have a positive impact on quality of care as they are able to provide 24 hours service. This has implications for other service models.