Diaper / Incontinence Associated Dermatitis in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Christine Grippi, MSN, RN, CNS and Sau Man Pang, MSN, RN, CWOCN

Purpose/Learning Objectives
The purpose of this activity is to enable the learner to understand a standardized approach to prevention, assessment, management and documentation of incontinence associated/diaper dermatitis in the Neonatal ICU:
- Learner will discuss methods of assessment and management for infants with IAD
- Learner will discuss methods of prevention of IAD in NICU

Methods/Results
- Review of Medical records for all infants with confirmed hospital acquired IAD during 2015 to identify common factors.
- The team for this quality improvement initiative met in March, 2016 to review the current practice and identify areas of improvement and staff education needed.
- An evidence-based approach for prevention of IAD was currently in use in the NICU but the team identified gaps in implementing interventions to mitigate the risk for IAD development in the NICU setting.
- The team also identified the need for a standardized approach to promote consistency of perineal hygiene care and documentation.
- A Standard of Care was developed based on current evidence, including the use of preventive application of moisture barrier (petrolatum based skin protectant) for all infants in the NICU, more frequent diaper change for infants at higher than normal risk for IAD, including those with Neonatal Abstinence syndrome, frequent antibiotic use, malabsorption syndromes, and guidelines for assessment and documentation of IAD.
- Staff education regarding the new Standard of Care was given.
- Results: There was >than 50% reduction in IAD in the NICU, including severe dermatitis in 2016. Since this change of practice was initiated, the incidence of IAD has declined and remained stable without any incidence of severe IAD.

Purpose/Objective of Project
The purpose of this evidence based multidisciplinary quality improvement initiative was to identify infants at higher than normal risk for IAD, standardize practice in our unit and decrease the overall rate of IAD. Our goal was to reduce the incidence of HAIAD by 50% by the 2nd Quarter of 2016.

Conclusions
The standardization of prevention and management of IAD in the NICU resulted in a significant decrease in IAD in our unit, particularly related to severe dermatitis with skin erosion/bleeding.

This nurse-driven initiative has been sustained since completion of the project and continues to be effective in prevention and management of IAD in our NICU.

References

Incidence of Diaper Dermatitis in NICU

![Incidence of Diaper Dermatitis in NICU](image-url)