

Impact of implementing a soft silicone multi-layered foam dressing protocol for pressure injury prevention on incidence and severity

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Introduction

- A community hospital in Baltimore, Maryland had a HAPI rate of 3.18 in 2022.
- The ICU had the highest number of HAPIs, and the majority were located on the sacral region and of an advanced stage (e.g., Stage 3, 4, or unstageable), which are reportable to CMS¹.
- A QIP was initiated first in the ICU and later in the IMC to address the largest proportion of HAPI.

Methods

- A prophylactic foam dressing* protocol to protect the sacral area of high-risk patients was implemented in the ICU and later in the IMC.
- Pre/post HAPI incidence per 1000 patient days was calculated to evaluate the effectiveness of the protocol.

Results

- Both ICU and IMC, the overall and sacral advanced HAPI incidence per 1000 patient days was reduced following implementation of the prophylactic foam dressing protocol (Figure 1 and 2).
- Percent reduction of all HAPI stages and locations from pre- to protocol:

ICU: 36% IMC: 48%

Discussion and Conclusion

Reduced overall HAPI and advanced HAPI resulted in positive quality outcomes. The protocol was well-received by both staff and hospital administration. Education, auditing, and data collection to promote continuing education and adherence to the protocol is ongoing.

*ALLEVYN[®] LIFE Sacrum Foam Dressing, Smith and Nephew, Hull, UK

Abbreviations

HAPI = Hospital-acquired pressure injury QIP = Quality improvement project
ICU = Intensive Care Unit IMC = Intermediate Care Unit
CMS = Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Reference:

¹Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Hospital-Acquired Conditions. CMS.gov. https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HospitalAcqCond/Hospital-Acquired_Conditions. Published 2022. Accessed March 5, 2025.

Figure 1. ICU Advanced HAPI per 1000 patient days (# of HAPI/patient days)

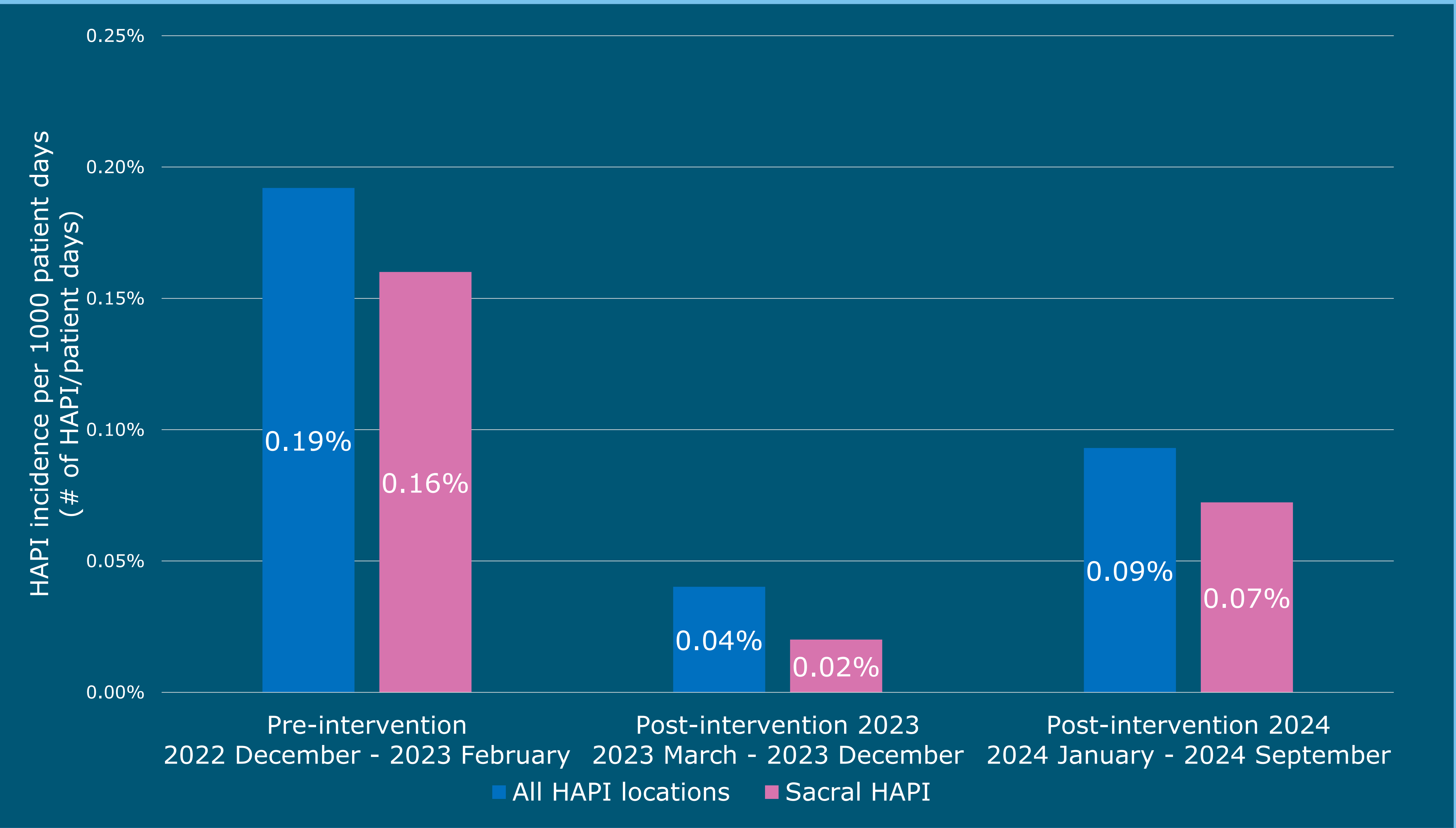


Figure 2. IMC Advanced HAPI per 1000 patient days (# of HAPI/patient days)

