

PUP "Digs" Consistent Assignment

May
2009

Pressure Ulcer Prevention



PUP
protects your
skin!

Consistent assignment of caregivers in nursing homes can help prevent pressure ulcers. Inspecting a resident's skin regularly and noticing if changes are occurring is vital in making sure the skin is intact and stopping pressure ulcers from developing. Noticing changes in a resident's skin is much easier when the caregiver is very familiar with the resident and this is easiest when homes use consistent assignment.

Consistent assignment means that residents see the same caregivers (nurses, med techs, and nursing assistants) at least 85% of the time. Caregivers who are consistently assigned are much more likely to notice even the slight changes in a resident's health. This can

prevent larger health problems, such as skin breakdown and pressure sores. When employees are given rotating assignments, it is difficult to build relationships with the residents or their coworkers. Consistent assignment also benefits residents who feel more comfortable when the same people help them with intimate aspects of care such as assessing their skin. It also benefits your home with less call outs and turnover and more satisfied staff.

Consistent assignment is not just a good thing, it's possible! Learn how to begin:

First go to page 2 of [www.nccnhr.org/uploads/Auld,Rosenthal-2of4-Concurrent\(ConsistentAssignment\).pdf](http://www.nccnhr.org/uploads/Auld,Rosenthal-2of4-Concurrent(ConsistentAssignment).pdf) for a process to easily change from rotating to consistent assignments. Then visit pages 8-15 of http://www.nhqualitycampaign.org/files/im/8_ConsistentAssignment_TAW_Guide.pdf to walk through the process of implementing consistent assignment at your nursing home.

For more information visit:

http://primaris.org/documents/resources/3ChangeIdeas_CONSISTENT_ASSIGNMENT.pdf
or <http://www.nhqualitycampaign.org/>



Action Steps:

1. Learn more about how to implement consistent assignment by attending the "On the Road to Culture Change Conference", June 17-18 in St. Louis. For more information visit www.MissouriMC5.com or www.moaha.org
2. Target one group of residents for consistent assignment.
3. Establish a team that will regularly work together to care for these residents.
4. Find out from staff their preferred schedule and make assignments based on care needs and personal relationships with residents.
5. Ask team to work with each other to provide back-ups and substitutes for when they need to change their schedule or call in.
6. Dig in and get started with consistent assignment TODAY!!!

MoLANE Planning Committee Members:

- Missouri Association of Homes for the Aging
- Missouri Health Care Association
- Missouri Coalition Celebrating Care Continuum Change
- Missouri Association of Nursing Home Administrators
- Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
- Missouri Hospice and Palliative Care Association
- Missouri League for Nursing
- Missouri State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- National Association of Health Care Assistants
- Primaris, Missouri's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization
- Missouri Hospital Association
- Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO)

Watch for more PUP Tips!!!