



Simplifying Braden Scale Use: A Visual Education Tool for Bedside Nurses



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INTRODUCTION

Background

This project was initiated after learning from new-to-practice Registered Nurses that they were unsure of what the Braden Scale score measurements mean, or how to rate patients' Braden Scale score. The Braden Scale Score assesses sensory perception, moisture, activity, mobility, nutrition, and friction and shear; these 6 factors are major determinant of skin health and protection during hospital stays. According to Press Ganey the average Hospital Cost per Hospital acquired Pressure Injury (HAPI) is \$11,000 (*The Value of Nursing Preventative Strategies in Reducing Hospital-acquired Pressure Injuries*, 2023b), appropriate use and measurement of the Braden Scale can help decrease the occurrence of HAPIs.

Purpose

- The goal of this project was to improve staff knowledge of the Braden Scale, how to utilize it, and ultimately to improve patient care.

Framework:

- QI(PDSA)

Objectives of Poster:

- Describe a new way to teach score the subcategories of The Braden Scale and how to differentiate the risk levels.
- Staff will be able to more accurately score the patient's Risk levels in each subcategory, allowing them to implement the C.A.R.E. Bundle as needed.

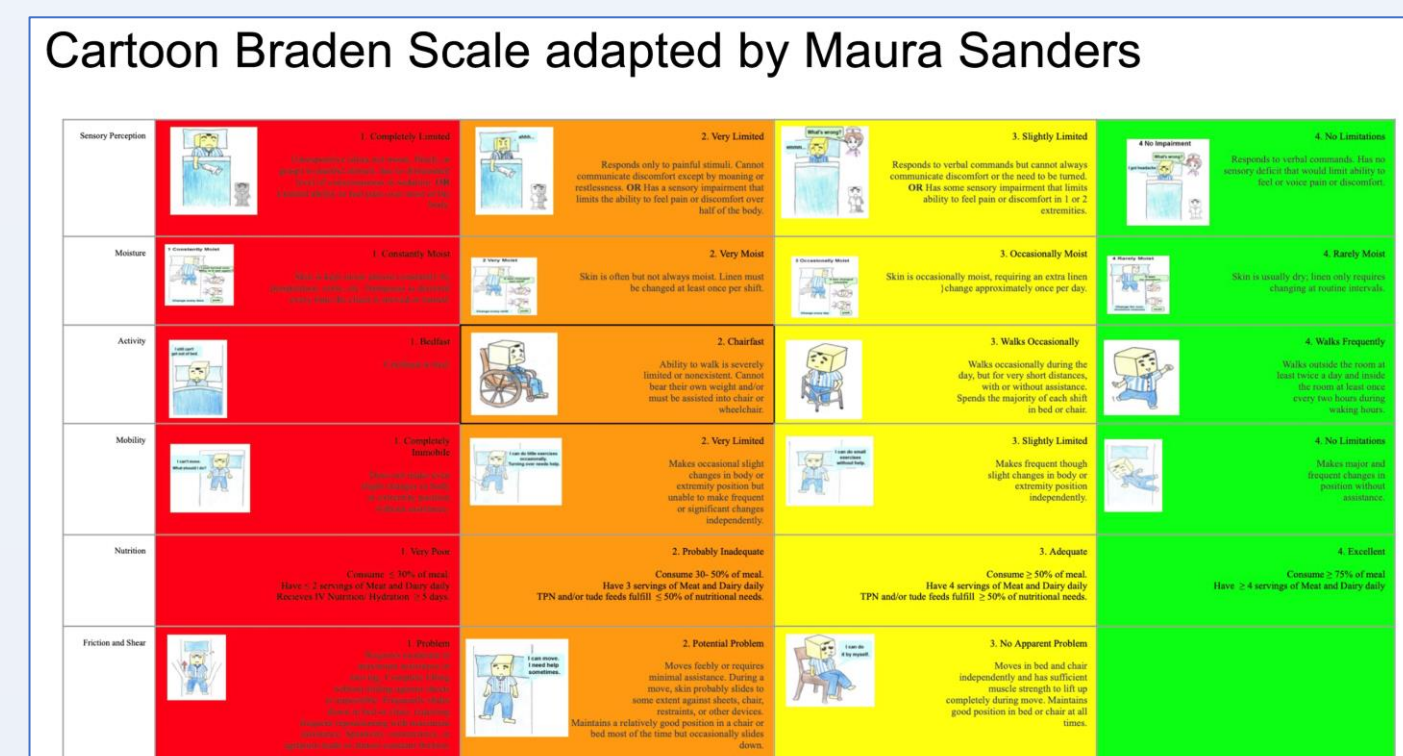


Image 1: Cartoon Braden Scale adapted by Maura Sanders. Image created/adapted by Maura Sanders. Retrieved from [A Cartoon Version of Braden Scale to Assess the Risk of Pressure Injury: Content Validity and Interrater Reliability Study Zhao, Jing et al.], [Aug, 2022], CC BY-SA 4.0 [Deed - Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International - Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)

METHODS

Setting and Participants:

The project took place at the Virtua Marlton Progressive Care unit with all Nursing staff during Monthly Wound Rounds, Staff meetings, and one to one interactions with staff. The project took place starting at the March 2025 PCU Staff meeting and concluded at the August 2025 Hospital Wound Rounds.

Intervention/Process:

- Before beginning this Quality Improvement Project, research was conducted to find other Evidence-Based Projects with similar purposes and using those to compile a version of the Braden Scale that would best fit the needs of the Virtua Marlton PCU Staff.
- The Cartoon Braden Scale (Image 1) was presented to Members of PCU Leadership and Shared Governance for approval of product use and review with Staff. The Shared Governance Board and Leadership approved of the use.
- A Pre-Education Survey was then sent out to Virtua Marlton PCU to see what is already known and where improvements are needed.
- After receiving staff Surveys and speaking to PCU staff members, verbal education, Unit Bulletin Board Display, and educational emails were distributed to staff during and after Skin Care Team rounds.
- A follow-up survey was sent out to staff, and surveys were also done on a 1:1 basis

Data Collection and Analysis:

Success was measured through anonymous online survey collection. Results are shown to the Right.

RESULTS

Key Findings:

Through the online surveys, it can be seen that most participants were nurses who have been in practice for 3 years or less, they all indicated, through data splicing, that they were not as familiar with using the Braden Scale prior to education. The data indicated that all the participants became "more familiar" with the Braden Scale. The survey data also showed that 100% of participants recommend use of The Cartoon Braden Scale. More Data needs to be collected from morre members of the Virtua Health Community to have stronger data sets

Visuals:

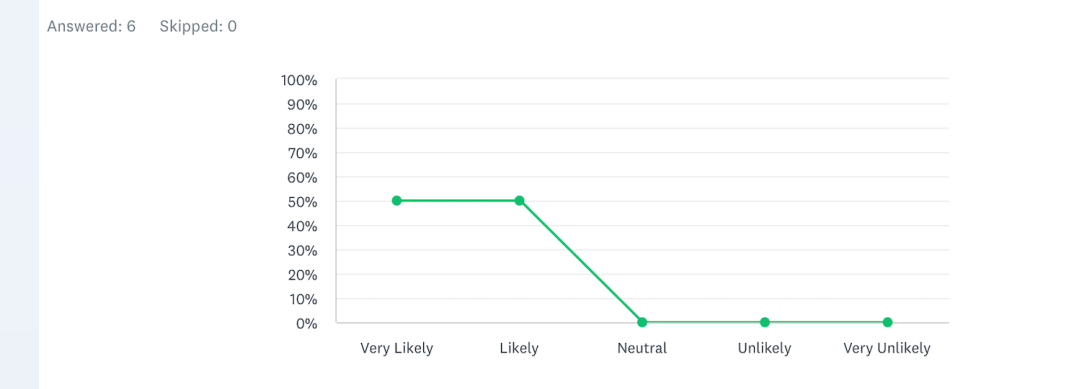
Pre-Education Survey Results



Post-Education Survey Results



How likely are you to recommend the cartoon Braden Scale to a colleague?



CONCLUSIONS

Interpretation:

Similar to similar studies on this same subject, participants found the Cartoon Braden Scale to be more effective and easier to use. Participants met **Objective 1** as evidenced by survey results. Participants also verbalized that they had met **Objective 2**.

Relevance:

Using the Cartoon Braden Scale allows staff to use a visual aide to determine patient scores, making them more accurate. Through this project it was verbalized by participants that the Cartoon Braden Scale was easier to use and made the scoring process easier and efficient. When assessments are done more efficiently, care is also more efficient and effective.

Limitations and Future Directions:

There was limited number of participants, in future this project should be expanded to other units and hospitals within the Health System to expand participant numbers, allowing more data to be collected. Continue to teach the Cartoon Braden Scale to the PCU Nursing staff continuously and focusing on areas of improvement from weekly unit rounds, monthly divisional rounds, and quarterly Virtua Pressure Injury Reduction Council Meetings. In future projects more assessments will be done to ensure adequate education was completed through learning assessments.

REFERENCES

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Contributors:

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