The National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPIAP) defines a pressure injury as a localized injury to the skin and/or underlying tissue as a result of pressure or when soft tissue is compressed between a bony prominence and an external surface for a prolonged period of time (NPIAP 2020).

- One Hospital Acquired Pressure Injury can cost between $20,900 to $151,700 to treat (AHRQ 2018).
- The #1 way to prevent heel pressure injuries is offloading the heels (Reed, 2012).

In 2017, at LIJ Forest Hills, there were 41 HAPI's; 18 Lower Extremity HAPI's.

**RESULTS**

At the beginning of 2018 and 2019, the goal was to see a 25% reduction in the amount of heel/lower extremity hospital acquired pressure injuries. Upon implementation of all of these interventions, we were able to see a complete decrease of hospital acquired heel/lower extremity pressure injuries to ZERO and sustained that through 2020.

- The education of the staff on the proper use of the heel boots, 2 RN verification of pressure injury identification, the Skin Champion Program, and having a “hands-on” CWOCN were critical to the achievement of this goal.

There are 14 HAPI’s (2018); 10 HAPI’s (2019); 5 HAPI (2020).

Currently No Heel HAPI’s

- 50 current Wound Care Skin Champions
- Increased proper usage of heel offloading resources

**CONCLUSION**

- At the beginning of 2018 and 2019, the goal was to see a 25% reduction in the amount of heel/lower extremity hospital acquired pressure injuries. Upon implementation of all of these interventions, we were able to see a complete decrease of hospital acquired heel/lower extremity pressure injuries to ZERO and sustained that through 2020.
- The education of the staff on the proper use of the heel boots, 2 RN verification of pressure injury identification, the Skin Champion Program, and having a “hands-on” CWOCN were critical to the achievement of this goal.

**FUTURE PLANS**

- Continue implementation of the interventions set forth
- 1 More Cohort of Skin Champions in 2021
- Continue to monitor and adjust unit PAR levels to reflect patient needs
- Monitor outcomes
- Improved assessment and documentation by nursing staff
- Achievement of Stretch Index rate for Hospital Acquired Pressure Injuries

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**REFERENCES**

