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The Establishment of a Perioperative Skin Integrity Committee

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Background: A hospital committee was created to explore the basis for repeated incidents of skin breakdown.

Objectives: To create a team approach for communicating patients' information regarding skin assessment, perioperative requirements, and postoperative needs. To identify patients with actual and potential skin breakdown prior to admission.

Implementation: A communication system relaying information to appropriate caregivers was developed.

Positive Outcome: Patients with actual or potential skin integrity issues are identified earlier. Staff became aware of resources that can be accessed to manage patients with skin integrity issues.

A grant was awarded to the committee to explore and develop a perioperative skin assessment tool.

Implications for Perianesthesia Nursing: The involvement of perianesthesia nurses on the committee will ensure a consistent level of participation in the treatment and prevention of skin breakdown.