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## CHANGE AND CONSISTENCY OF WOUND CARE PRACTICE = POSITIVE OUTCOMES

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**Goal:** To demonstrate that the implementation of a standardized wound care program, partnered with structured, ongoing education would result in a measurable change of wound care practice and a reduction of internally acquired pressure ulcers within a chain of 87 nursing homes.

**Purpose:** To utilize outcome measurement principles to analyze whether the change in practice and outcomes had indeed occurred.

**Method:** Using outcome measurement tools, collected qualitative and quantitative data to measure wound care practice and number of internally acquired pressure ulcers over a 3 year period. These outcomes were then compared to baseline data collected in 2004 to determine if the outcome was as expected. Complete elimination of wounds was not the expected outcome.

**Results:** Evidence indicated that there was:

- increased documentation practices
- increased consistency of wound care practice
- reduction of internally acquired pressure ulcers

**Summary:** this study demonstrates that a standardized wound care program, partnered with structured, ongoing education resulted in a change of practice and a reduction of internally acquired pressure ulcers within 87 nursing homes. Staff commitment, confidence in integrating best practice into daily routines and improved quality of life for Residents are also key outcomes when implementing a successful wound care program.