We wanted to empower the staff nurse with the ability to choose the correct specialty bed to meet patient needs. This simplified algorithm needed to support all the specialty beds available to the all hospitals in our system.

Once the algorithm was developed, we disseminated the information to nursing staff through a variety of modalities.

This project accomplished a multitude of needs that were identified by our group. Standardization of Specialty Rental Beds helped to contain costs for the hospital by limiting the number of bed companies that the hospital contracted with, empowered nursing to meet their patients’ needs and provided a standardized, simplified resource for the five hospitals in our system.

After the universal algorithm was in use for 4 months by our healthcare team, members were encouraged to supply feedback.

We were looking for any gaps or information the algorithm was missing and what was needed to make this a comprehensive resource guide. I found I needed to add specialty function of beds, clarify patient width measurements and add and correct Bed Companies resource information.

What is illustrated here is the final algorithm. It has been effectively in use for 4 months and will be reviewed after 6 months for any healthcare team input.

Author Barbara Twombly RN, CWOCN
Co-Author Julia Ringhofer RN, CWOCN
Tara Bishannon RN, CWON
Jadine Mayco RN, CWOCN
Sandy Sweary RN, CWOCN
Fenella Speece RN, WCC
Tiffany Rowanough RN, WOC
Star Harrison RN, CWOCN
Rolyne Watkins RN, CWOCN
Mandy McDonough RN, CWOCN—not shown
Debra Wood RN
Linda Donnelly RN, CWOCN
Caleen Sichel RN, CWOCN
Dr. Vayser

We are a system of five hospitals, each with a variety of rental specialty beds without consistent reference material for the staff.

A system wide Wound Care group was challenged with the task of trialing and standardizing the specialty beds that would best meet the needs of our patient populations.

Once the specialty beds were chosen, the new focus of the project was to develop a universal algorithm for all the hospitals in the system.

This algorithm had to be simple, direct and easy to follow since nurses in the system can rotate to any of the facilities.

About The Authors:
Barbara Twombly RN, CWOCN
Barbara Twombly RN BSN, CWOCN—Received her BSN from Russell Sage College, Troy, NY in 1980. Initially, Barbara practiced as an ICU nurse with her CCRN until 2010. During her time in ICU Barbara obtained her WCC in 2004. Barbara attended Emory University for her WOCN training 2009-2010 and became certified in 2010. She has been employed by Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, Ca since 1985 becoming their CWOCN in 2010.

Julia Ringhofer RN, CWOCN
Julia Ringhofer RN, CWOCN—Received her BSN from University of Minnesota in 1980. Initially, Julia practiced in Med Surg acute care and then spent several years in Home Health in San Diego, CA. Julia obtained WOCN training in 1995 from Abbott Northwestern program and her WOCN practice has been thru Scripps Health Care system. Julia’s areas of WOCN practice have been home health, inpatient, and outpatient. She currently serves as a board member of the San Diego Ostomy Support Group.

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