

More than Skin Deep: Improving the Skin Champion Program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center

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Introduction

Topic: Improving the skin champion program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC)

Background:

- Skin champions= bedside nurses who attend one skin champion class
 - Designated unit resource for pressure injury (PI) prevention, identification, and treatment
- Education initiatives help improve the knowledge base of bedside nurses, application of evidence-based practice, and lead to decreased rates of pressure injuries

Problem:

- Annual cost in US of \$11.6 billion; estimates of \$500 - \$152,000 per patient
- Skin champions at VUMC are not assessed for their knowledge
- Problem identified by former Quality and Safety Advisor- Pressure Injury Preventionist

Team Members:

- Former Quality and Safety Advisor- Pressure Injury Preventionist
- Nursing Quality Manager

Aims:

1. Assess knowledge about preventing, identifying, and treating PI's of skin champions
2. Develop recommendations for future improvement opportunities for the program

Methods

- Plan Do Study Act (PDSA) format for quality improvement (QI) methodology

Plan:

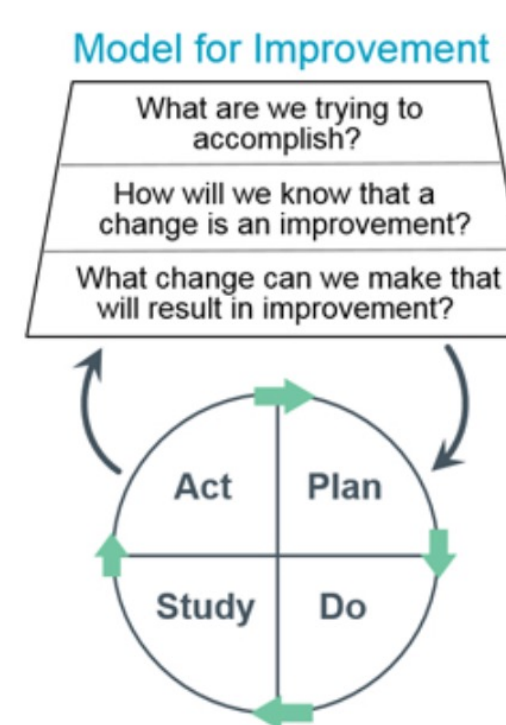
- Reviewed current VUMC skin champion education
- Reviewed published knowledge assessments
- Created 25-item VUMC specific assessment tool on REDCap

Do: Tool emailed to current skin champions; voluntary, convenience sampling technique

Study: scores aggregated and analyzed using descriptive statistics

Act:

- Adapt- adjust questions that confused respondents
- Adopt- use assessment tool for skin champions
- Abandon- pick new assessment method



Results

- Knowledge assessment of skin champions improved from 0% (0) to 23.4% (147)
- Key missed questions and correct response rate:

PI Definitions	33.0%
Risk and Prevention	20.0%
Staging	36.0%
VUMC Policies	33.0%

Implementation of a **knowledge assessment** improved understanding of knowledge gaps in skin champion nurses at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and **represents a first step** to improving the overall skin champion program.

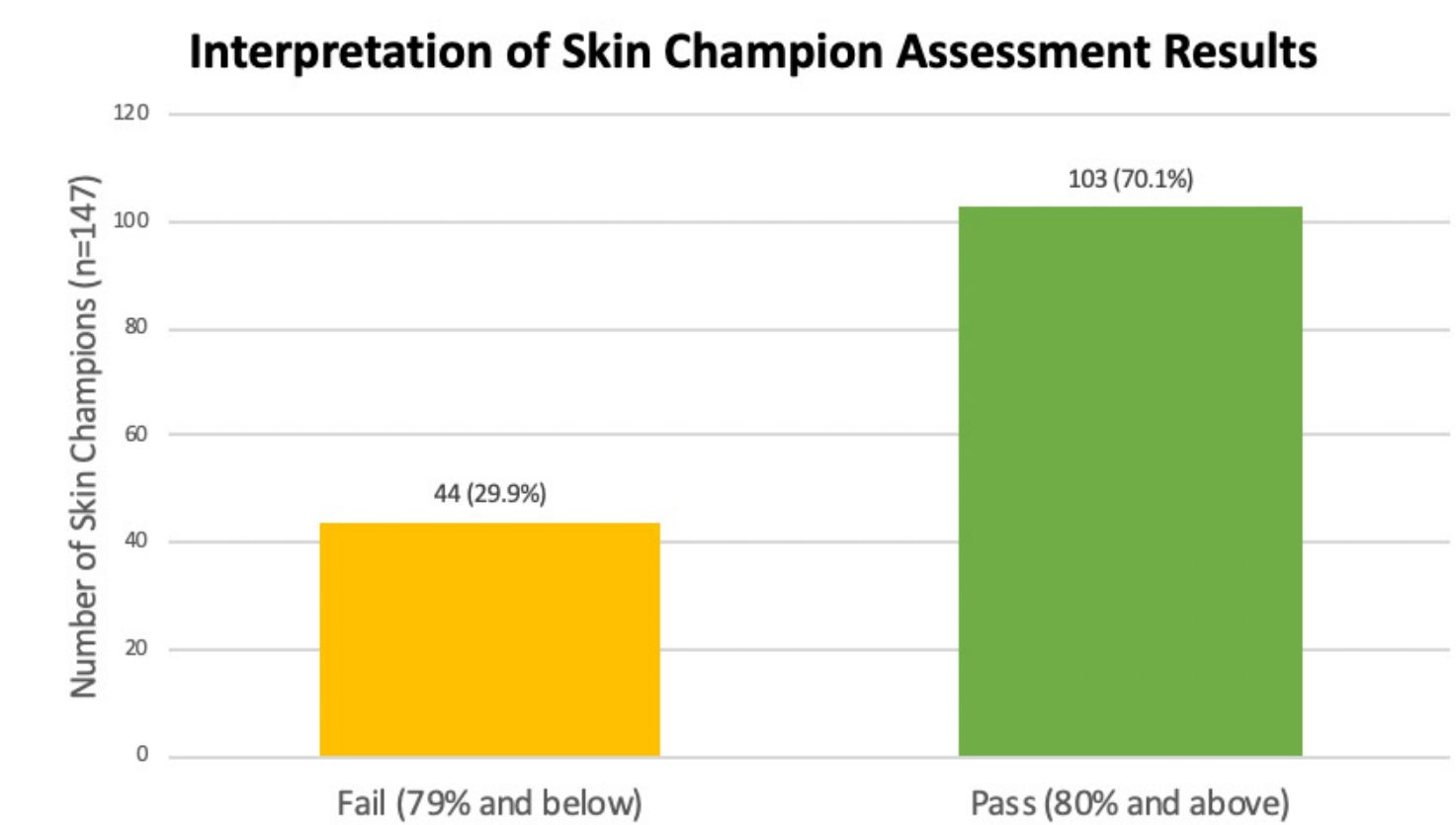
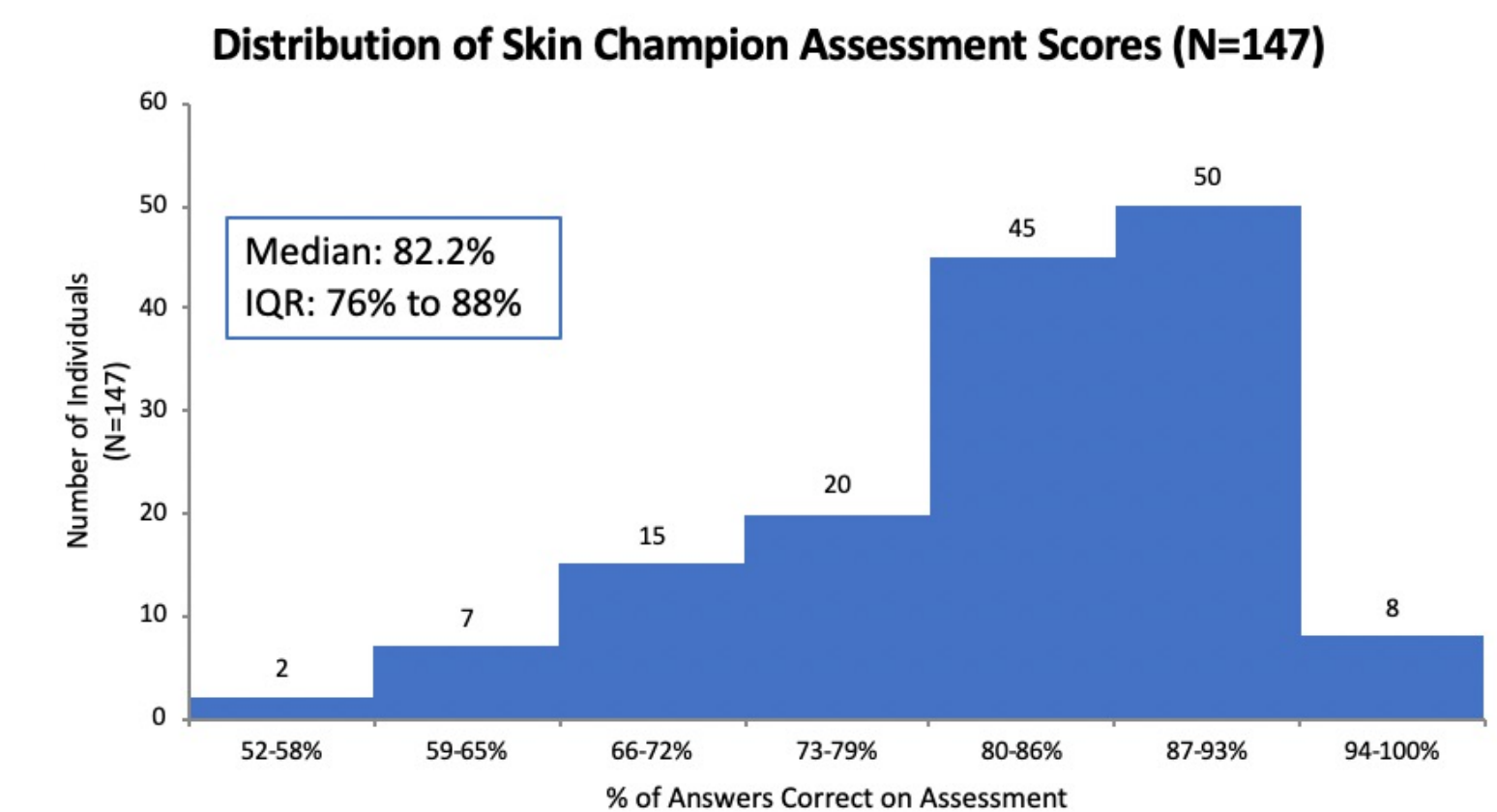


Scan here for full abstract and references

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Results

Below is the distribution of skin champion assessment scores and the interpretation of these scores in terms of passing (80% and above) and failing.



Implications for Practice

Scores:

- Majority (70%) of individuals who completed the assessment passed
- Majority of nurses demonstrate an adequate knowledge base for acting as skin champions

Identified knowledge gaps:

- No one topic in particular was commonly missed
- General education is needed to help clarify all areas
- Commonly missed individual question included some known difficult subjects such as mucosal pressure injuries and identification of unstageable injuries

Strengths and limitations

- Successfully assessed knowledge of VUMC Skin Champions
- Knowledge assessment can be utilized by VUMC going forward
- 23% response rate for voluntary survey
- Recommend skin champion designation should be done on yearly basis to focus education on bedside nurses
- Recommend yearly education to update nurses on policy changes, common problems identified by skin champions, reminders on science of pressure injuries