



Raising Super STARs: Preventing Hospital-Acquired Pressure Ulcers With Unit-Based Skin Experts (Branding WTA Super S.T.A.R.s)

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Purpose

The purpose of this project is to give the S.T.A.R. (Skin Team Advocate and Resource) members the knowledge and confidence to serve as better role models for wound and skin care and pressure ulcer prevention on the units.

Relevance/Significance

The S.T.A.R committee staff nurses are the front line team members in preventing pressure ulcers and providing quality wound and skin care. Stage III, IV, and unstageable pressure ulcers are never events, It is essential to have skin care champions on every unit to reinforce and educate all staff on pressure ulcer prevention and wound and skin care.

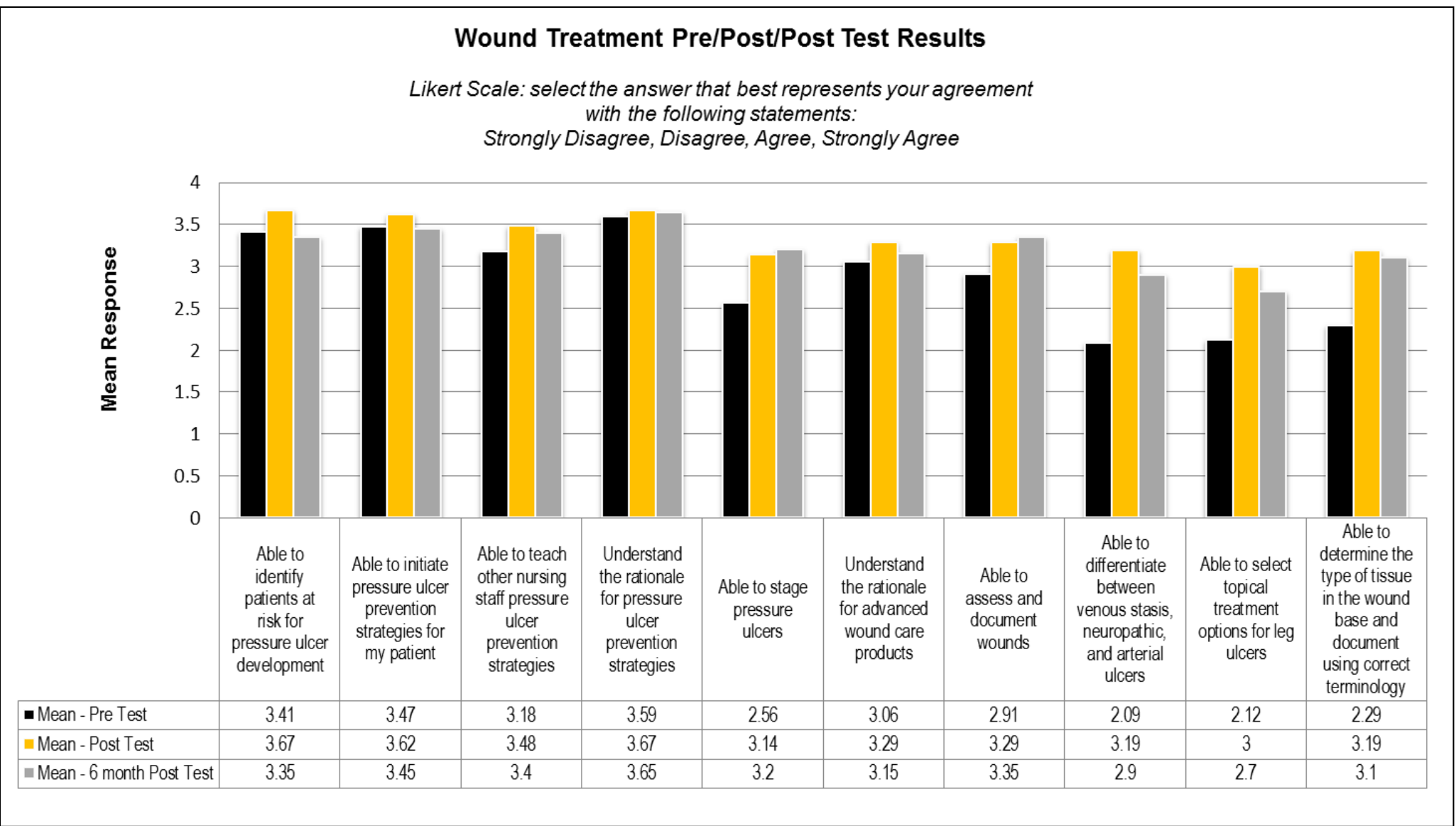
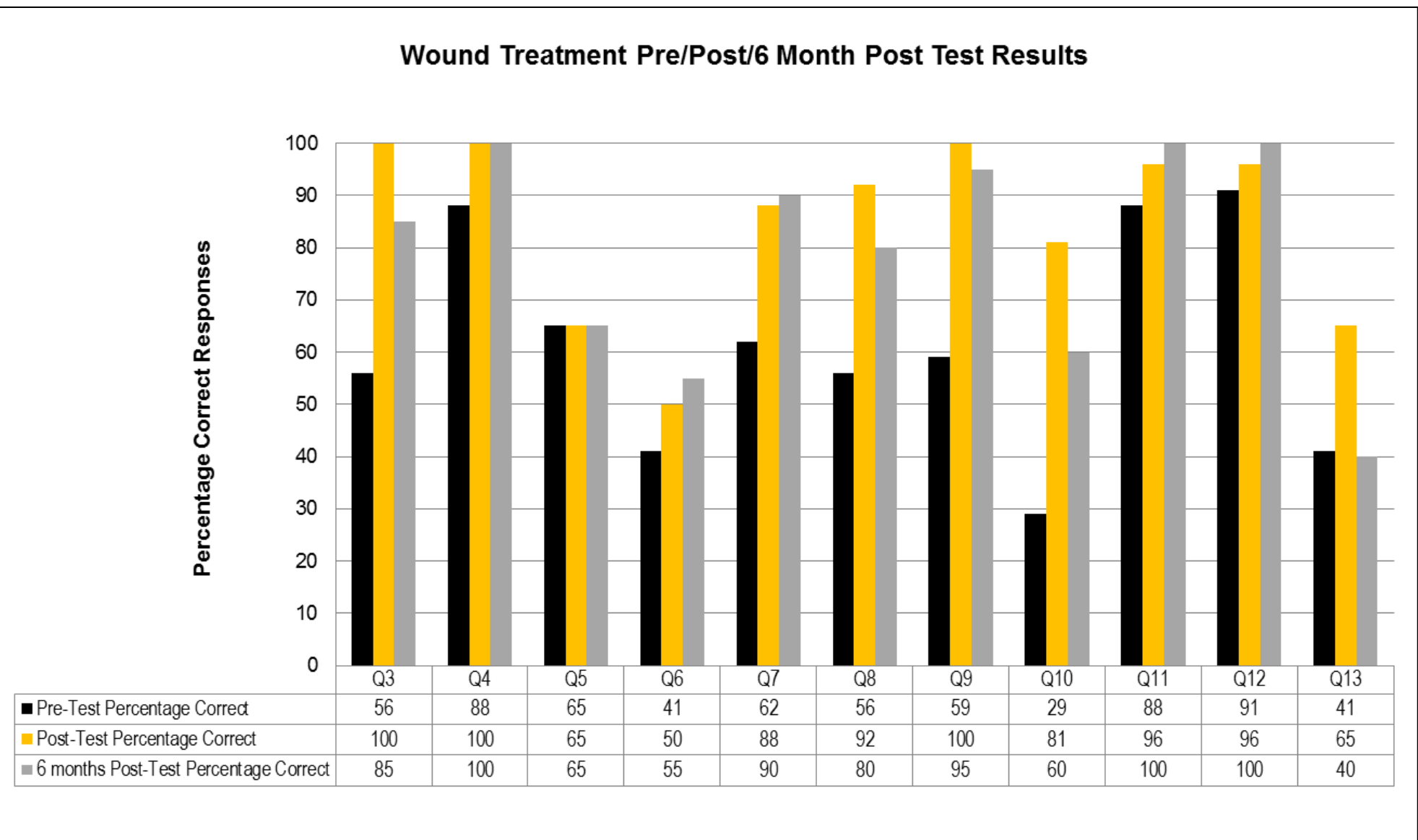


Strategy and Implementation

- Obtained funding through the Department of the Nursing for the program and individual applicant fees. Nurses to complete the online portion on their own time.
- 30 members of the S.T.A.R. committee completed the Wound Treatment Associate online program.
- Nurses completed Qualtrics knowledge and confidence survey prior to starting the course, at completion of the course and at 6 months, and one year.
- Added role expectations for these WTA S.T.A.R.s on their assigned units.
- Formal Graduation Ceremony and Recognition

Expectations of the WTA Super S.T.A.R.

- Identify patients at risk for pressure ulcer development, skin tears and/or moisture associated skin damage to provide appropriate preventive care using established protocols.
- Select appropriate dressings to maintain a physiologic environment for wound healing.
- Provide on-going monitoring of the wound and the patient's response to the established plan, including measurement and observation of the wound.
- Provide or assist with appropriate education regarding skin and wound care to patients, families, and staff.
- Participate in quality improvement programs for your unit that deal with wound and skin care.
- The WTA will identify patients who require a wound and ostomy nurse referral for any of the following: pressure ulcer staging, complex wounds, chronic wounds with failure to progress



Evaluation

Following the course, the participant's survey revealed an increase in knowledge of the wound care, pressure ulcer prevention, pressure ulcer staging and confidence in working with peers on implementing interventions on their units. The participants are starting to develop unit based projects.

Next Steps

We have just completed the second class of WTA participants. Continuing unit level education and projects by the WTA graduates. Quarterly meetings with the WTA Super S.T.A.R.s to maintain their knowledge base and enthusiasm to lead their units. New projects underway include unit inservices, four eyes on admission, roll out of new surfaces and products, and monthly mini surveys.

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Acknowledgements

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Skin Team Advocate Resource (STAR) staff nurses, WOC nurses, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nursing Administration.

