11-3-2023

The Big Picture: Use of Photography as Standard Documentation

Megan Tebo
*Rochester Regional Health*, Megan.Tebo2@rochesterregional.org

Rhianon Lester
*Rochester Regional Health*, Rhianon.Lester@rochesterregional.org

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholar.rochesterregional.org/nursingresearchday_2023

Part of the Medical Education Commons, and the Nursing Commons

**Recommended Citation**

https://scholar.rochesterregional.org/nursingresearchday_2023/1

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Nursing Research and EBP at RocScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Nursing Research and EBP Day 2023 by an authorized administrator of RocScholar. For more information, please contact Lisa.Buda@rochesterregional.org.
PICO Question
In surgical wound care patients, how does nursing access to photography versus no access to photography for documentation affect patient wound healing?

Legality
The Joint Commission strongly advises organizations to obtain informed consent before photographing a patient. (Consent to be obtained at initial encounter.)

Develop a system that meets facility security requirements for the protection of privacy.

Consider using facility owned smartphone camera or tablet. (Secure documentation in Epic provided through Haiku application.)

Updating policies to reflect the safe transfer of photographs into the medical record (Wiedemann, 2010).

As you develop your wound photography policy, you also will want to include a section on patient consent.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) guidelines also mandate protection of patient privacy through written informed consent.

What Are The Uses?
Wound photos are paramount in enriching documentation and encouraging better overall patient care.

Creating a consistent timeline of wound images enhances identification of issues while providing a way to involve patients in their care.

Allows provider to follow up on patient’s regression or progression while not being present during nurse visits. Also, saves provider time at visit, RN can take preliminary photos and post photos

Legal protection:
Photographs can assist in protecting your facility from liability for the wound occurring while the person is under your direct care

Proper documentation proving quality of care will help prevent potential legal issues. Wound photography can be used in helping defend medical malpractice cases.

What Does The Evidence Show?
Comprehensive documentation can aid in proper treatment, wound healing progress, advancement toward closure. Shows declination, changes in tissue types and percentages, and changes in wound health.

Less incidence of erroneous interpretation of written notes.

In one study conducted by Sanger et al. it was shown that the addition of photos improved overall diagnostic accuracy from 67% to 76% (p < 0.001)

Cost Considerations
Office cell phone with internet connection ($200-400 initial cost) $50/month for service ($600/year)

Tablet cost Apple Mini $499 (one time cost)

Chronic wounds impact nearly 15% of Medicare beneficiaries (8.2 million), far more than suggested by previous studies.

A conservative estimate of the annual cost of wounds is $28 billion when the wound is the primary diagnosis on the claim. When the analysis included wounds as a secondary diagnosis, wound care spending is conservatively estimated at $31.7 billion.

Legal protection:
Photographs can assist in protecting your facility from liability for the wound occurring while the person is under your direct care

Proper documentation proving quality of care will help prevent potential legal issues. Wound photography can be used in helping defend medical malpractice cases.

What Does The Evidence Show?
Comprehensive documentation can aid in proper treatment, wound healing progress, advancement toward closure. Shows declination, changes in tissue types and percentages, and changes in wound health.

Less incidence of erroneous interpretation of written notes.

In one study conducted by Sanger et al. it was shown that the addition of photos improved overall diagnostic accuracy from 67% to 76% (p < 0.001)

Cost Considerations
Office cell phone with internet connection ($200-400 initial cost) $50/month for service ($600/year)

Tablet cost Apple Mini $499 (one time cost)

Chronic wounds impact nearly 15% of Medicare beneficiaries (8.2 million), far more than suggested by previous studies.

A conservative estimate of the annual cost of wounds is $28 billion when the wound is the primary diagnosis on the claim. When the analysis included wounds as a secondary diagnosis, wound care spending is conservatively estimated at $31.7 billion.