Evidence That Wound Care Knowledge Improves SNF Outcomes

Overview
The Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA) demonstrates a proven relationship between better wound care and patient outcomes. OHCA leveraged CMS grant funds to design, offer, and track outcomes when wound care education and certification is achieved by nurses working in Ohio skilled nursing facilities (SNFs).

Results
Using Medicare cost figures, better wound care would ultimately result in cost savings for organizations between approximately $20,000 to $120,000 per injury.

Study Design
- 46 skilled nursing facilities enrolled.
- 199 nurses attended a 5-day onsite wound care certification course and took the certification exam.
- 70 percent of students passed the exam and became certified.
- OHCA then analyzed data on a quarterly basis, focusing on whether the participating SNFs saw improvement in the pressure injury QM since using a wound care certified specialist.
- The results of the case study demonstrated a proven relationship between better wound care and patient outcomes, which ultimately resulted in cost savings for the organization.