

# Nurse Leadership Training Program Sparks Innovation, Improves Outcomes

Impressive results reported by the first AACN CSI Academy teams.

AACN Clinical Scene Investigator (CSI) Academy, AACN's 16-month nurse leadership and innovation training program, celebrated several major milestones: its first graduating class, the first


public presentation of project results and the launch of a free online database with project results and resources.

In June 2012, AACN CSI Academy began empowering bedside nurses as clinician leaders and change agents whose initiatives measurably improve patient outcomes and hospital bottom lines.

Teams at hospitals in six American cities work with CSI faculty and an internal mentor to identify clinical issues, then develop, implement and evaluate solutions to some of patient care's most costly challenges. The training culminates in sharing noteworthy clinical and financial results with peers and hospital leadership at regional AACN CSI Academy innovation conferences scheduled throughout 2014.

At the first conference, 20 Indianapolis-area nurses in the program's first graduating class reported what they accomplished and learned. The graduates addressed priority clinical and safety issues such as hospital-acquired infections — ventilator-associated pneumonia, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, central line-associated bloodstream infections — pressure ulcers and falls. Some noteworthy results include:

- Reduced ICU patient ventilator days by nearly 0.5 day
- Lowered the occurrence of device-related pressure ulcers in the ICU by 50 percent
- Sustained a zero rate of new infection-related ventilator-associated complications
- Decreased by half patient falls in the progressive care unit

To make team results widely available, AACN launched the AACN CSI Academy Innovation Database, a free library of practice-based solutions, offering project plans, interventions, data collection tools and more for handling common clinical challenges. Accessible at [www.aacn.org/csi](http://www.aacn.org/csi), the database will grow with each graduating class. 

## AACN CSI Academy Teams Reduce Pressure Ulcers: Improve Quality, Reduce Costs

Two Indiana hospitals take on device-related nose and mouth pressure ulcers.

Two teams of bedside nurses completing the AACN Clinical Scene Investigator (CSI) Academy reported significant clinical and financial results in pressure ulcer reduction.

For 16 months, nurses at Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital and Wishard-Eskenza Health joined five other Indianapolis teams to plan, implement and measure change to improve patient outcomes and hospital bottom lines. As the academy's capstone, the teams presented their results at the

inaugural AACN CSI Academy Innovation Conference.

The IU Health Methodist team's project, "Face the Pressure," set out to decrease the prevalence of hospital-acquired nose and mouth pressure ulcers among critically ill adult patients because they found half of the pressure ulcers acquired during 2012 in the adult critical care unit were from medical devices of the nose and mouth.

Aiming to significantly reduce — and ultimately eliminate — these pressure ulcers in the unit and eventually across the hospital, the IU Health Methodist nurses devised pressure-reducing strategies. Their project introduced new taping methods, repositioning protocols and charting standards.

"We reduced device-related pressure ulcers by 50% among patients in the adult critical care unit, saving our organization almost \$260,000," the team reported. "Additionally, our taping method and endotracheal tube repositioning vigilance spread to other critical care units — which we presume resulted in decreased pressure ulcers among their patients."

A second team of nurses at Wishard Health Services also reported quantifiable improvement as a result of "Save Our Skin: SOS," its CSI Academy project. During the baseline measurement period, they identified 42 hospital-acquired, device-related pressure ulcers in the adult ICU. The team's goal was to decrease pressure ulcer occurrence by 50 percent through implementation of new skincare protocols, algorithms and products.

They shared encouraging results during the CSI Academy Innovation Conference. To date in 2013, the hospital had incurred only 15 hospital-acquired, device-related pressure ulcers, exceeding the original goal and a cost savings of approximately \$1.2 million.

Find the results of these and other CSI projects in the AACN CSI Academy Innovation Database, offering practice-based solutions to common — and costly — clinical challenges. Access this free, evolving online compilation of CSI Academy projects and documentation at [www.aacn.org/csi](http://www.aacn.org/csi). 