A training model to develop Intensive Care Nurses in the care of the burns patients and the skill of bedside dressings

Victorian Adult Burns Service AT THE ALFRED

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Background

The Alfred Hospital is the State Burns Centre for Victoria. During FY 2016/17 the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) had 70 burns admissions with 30 being greater than 20% TBSA. To manage this workload the ICU trains its own staff in bedside care and full dressing changes.
The ICU has a total nursing workforce of over 300 staff and had 2725 admissions during this period.
The following poster outlines the unit based training continuum to maintain an appropriate level of skill mix within the ICU.

Burns Dressing Team Composition

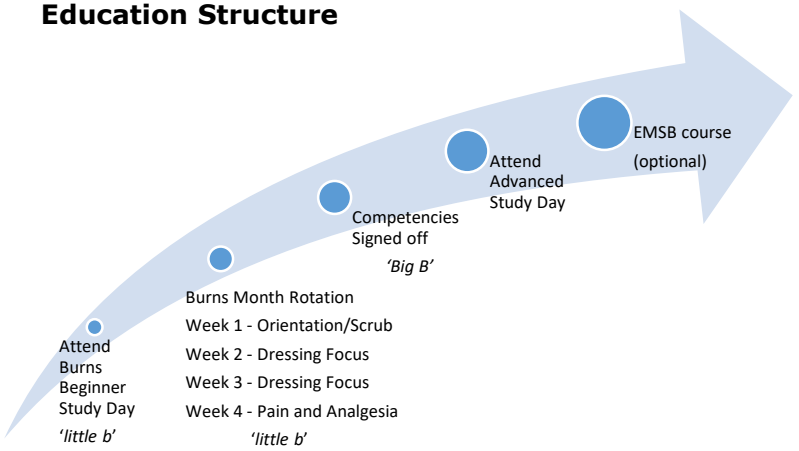
The burns dressing team is rostered twice per week, completing dressing changes for patients with and without artificial airways. Outside of these hours, only burns trained staff are allocated to look after burns patients.

Burns Dressing Team Composition				
	Burns Resource Nurse	'Big B'	1x little b development	1x little b
Position	ANUM/Gr 3B	CCRN/CNS	CCRN	CCRN
	- Lead dressing changes and manage competencies	- Competent burns nurse, resource to staff	- Completed one rotation, completing competencies	- First rotation, new to burns, completed introduction study day

Key Competencies

The key learning outcomes for a burns nurse are:
- Management of a critically ill burns
- Dressings and wound management
- Analgesia and sedation management
- Patient admissions and care of patients with un-survivable burns injuries

Education Structure



	Beginner Study Day	Month Rotation	Advanced Study Day
Clinical Hours	8 hours	2 rotations total of up to 128 hours	8 hours
Learning outcomes	•Introduction to wound and temperature management •Introduction to analgesia and sedation •Bedside care needs of a burns patient	• Burns admission and support of the dying patient •Wound management •Analgesia and sedation •Competency requirements	• Fluid resuscitation • Aseptic technique consolidation • Anaesthetic & scout nurse roles

Annual Training Target

This training model provides a throughput of trained staff to care for patients.
Training number aims are:
- 24 new 'little b's per year
- 12 'little b's complete dressing rotation
- 10 Big B's competent
- 12 Big B's consolidate

Planning of the dressing team

Nursing staff numbers within the dressing teams are allocated proportionate to TBSA. We have collected data of three years on the expected time for dressing completion and use this for planning.

TBSA (injury and donor sites)	Number of staff in team	Expected time to complete dressing change
Wound area ≤ 20%	1 Nurse	2hrs
Wound Area 21% - 40%	2 Nurses	3hrs
Wound area 41% - 60%	3 Nurses	4hrs
Wound area >61%	4 Nurses	4hrs

Conclusion

The ICU maintains a core group of staff who provide burns care shift to shift and complete full bedside dressing changes. This program has enabled nursing staff to extended their skills beyond the care of the critically ill patient.