

Presenter: Juliana Diaz

Session & Time: E-Poster

Room/Time: GUZ 113 & 114 / 3:30-4:30

Discipline: Nursing

Faculty Mentor: Olivia Catolico

Digital Portfolio URL: https://www.canva.com/design/DAHEIr_RTQY/Ltc_GoEVOkPpfZNSdLLvng/edit

Title: Protecting Tissue Integrity Through Sanitation

Abstract:

This poster highlights the importance of water and sanitation in preserving tissue integrity. Tissue integrity refers to skin that is intact and whole, providing protection for the body. Water and sanitation refer to access to clean water and proper hygiene practices. Poor water quality and inadequate sanitation can negatively affect tissue integrity and increase the risk of infection in both healthcare and community settings. In healthcare environments, patients with open skin from surgical procedures or skin breakdown are particularly vulnerable when hygiene standards are compromised due to contaminated water. Vulnerable populations, including infants, older adults, individuals with chronic illnesses, people experiencing homelessness, and those living in low-resource settings, are especially at risk of exposure to unsafe water. Polluted water may contain harmful pathogens and contaminants that can be ingested or enter the body through impaired skin integrity, leading to further health complications. The

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals emphasize the importance of ensuring access to safe drinking water, improving sanitation and hygiene, and reducing water contamination worldwide. Achieving these objectives can help reduce infection risks and improve overall health outcomes. Community action is essential in addressing these issues. Maintaining proper hand hygiene, promoting community hygiene education, and implementing educational programs focused on infection prevention and skin health can help reduce disease transmission. Through increased awareness and improved sanitation practices, communities and healthcare professionals can work together to protect vulnerable populations and support better tissue health.