

# Bridging the Gap Between Inpatient and Outpatient Burn Care Compliance: Incentive Programs for Pediatric Burn Patients

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### Introduction

- Advancements in healthcare have allowed patients traditionally requiring extended inpatient admissions to be treated on an outpatient basis.
- Historically, fear and anxiety have prevented patients and families from successfully continuing dressing changes and therapies at home
- To ensure quality of treatment is maintained, efforts must be made to translate hospital resources to the outpatient setting.



### Methods

- Incentive programs have traditionally been effective during hospital stays by rewarding children upon completion of difficult tasks, including:
  - therapy activities
  - dressing changes
  - meeting increased nutritional standards
- A burn specific incentive program called "Burn Bucks" was developed with the intent to establish early patient engagement and goal setting.

Patients identify their most difficult healthcare goals and a dollar amount is assigned to that goal. Throughout their stay, staff give "bucks" for the completion of goals.



As patients progress, goals are updated.



Patients use Burn Bucks earned to shop in the "Burn Bucks Store" upon return to the burn clinic.

- This program allows for a successful transition from inpatient to the home setting.

### Results

- Patients who participated in the Burn Bucks program less fearful as outpatients and more motivated to take an active role in their therapies.
- 87% of program participants met or surpassed their treatment goals at home.
- 93% of burn staff report increased participation and an improved overall disposition in patients who participated in the Burn Bucks program.



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