OBJECTIVE
- To compare the cost and efficacy of four regimens for preventing incontinence-associated dermatitis in nursing home residents.

METHODOLOGY
- 16 nursing homes were randomly recruited from the National Registry of Nursing Homes.
- Sites were required to have at least 90 beds and at least 40 incontinent residents.
- Time to complete care for prevention of incontinence-associated dermatitis was measured and the occurrence of dermatitis was monitored.
- Manufacturers’ instructions for use were followed; 3M™ Cavilon™ No Sting Barrier Film was applied three times weekly while the other three skin barrier products were applied after each incontinence episode. A skin cleanser of each of the manufacturers was used.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
- Total cost of incontinence dermatitis prevention was determined by the cost of skin care products, supplies, and labor using the measured time of 1 to 2 caregiver staff.
- Staff assessed residents’ skin for 6 weeks to determine efficacy of the regimens.

CONCLUSION
- The 3M skin damage prevention regimen using Cavilon No Sting Barrier Film three times per week had a significantly lower total cost (p<0.001).
- Overall occurrence of skin damage was 4.6% (45/981 residents), of which 74% (33/45 residents) was attributed to incontinence dermatitis. There was no difference in skin damage or incontinence dermatitis outcomes among regimens (p>.05).
- Use of 3M Cavilon No Sting Barrier Film three times weekly is as effective in preventing incontinence dermatitis as products that require application after each episode of incontinence.