

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FALL PREVENTION PROJECT

Abstract

Purpose: Analyses of falls experienced at Midwestern Hospital (MH) between September 1, 2017 through February 28th, 2018 found that of the 102 patients that experienced a fall, the number was highest in patients seeking treatment for strokes (Marianjoy Patient Safety Project, 2018).

Problem: Experiencing a fall impedes progress towards recovery, independence, and patient confidence. Fall-related injuries are also linked to higher hospitals costs and prolonged length of stay.

Methods: The Caution Club Plus fall prevention project is classified as a quality improvement project. All participants were evaluated with the Marianjoy fall risk assessment tool (MFRAT) and received standard care. When a patient scored a “six” or higher on the MFRAT, they attained Caution Club Plus status. The nurse ordered continuous video monitoring (CVM) and direct handoff (DH).

Findings: Out of the 154 patients, 22.1% scored a “six” or higher on the MFRAT. A total of 53% had CVM ordered when a “six” or higher was scored. “Direct handoff” and CVM were ordered 38.2% when the patient scored a “six” or higher on the MFRAT.

Conclusion: The fall rate on one east dropped from 4.0/1000 hospital days to 1.5/1000 hospital days. The goal was to maximize the use of technology to support successful monitoring of the patients. MH sets an example for all acute care facilities by their improvement in fall prevention.