Evaluation of a Fall Pilot on Medical-Surgical Unit

Jennifer Kitchens, MSN, RN, ACNS-BC, CVRN; Kimberly Howland, MJ, BSN, RN, EMT-P, CEN, CLNC; Kemi Olagbenro, RN; Tammy Hatcher, RN; Shangling Liang, RN, CMSRN; and Darcy Hatton, RN
Eskenazi Health, Indianapolis, IN

PURPOSE

• To implement and evaluate a fall pilot program on a medical-surgical unit

PROBLEM

• Falls are a key patient safety measure and can lead to increased injury, length of stay and cost.
• Increasing patient and nursing staff awareness of fall prevention via implementation of a visual reminder is one way to reduce the incidence of falls, though currently, there is no implemented visual reminder at the facility.

INTERVENTION

• “Call Don’t Fall” signs were placed in patients’ rooms and bathrooms.
• Signs included pictures and were written in English and Spanish.
• Evaluation data included examination of fall rates pre- and post-implementation.
• Patient and nursing staff surveys were designed and administered to evaluate the fall intervention.
• Surveys were scored using a 4-point Likert Scale (1=strongly disagree, 4=strongly agree).
• Staff nurse champions were developed to assist with rollout, education and survey data collection.
• Stakeholders were contacted for feedback prior to implementation.

RESULTS

• A fall pilot was implemented for five months.
• Fall rates pre-pilot were n=14 and post-pilot n=11.
• Five out of 11 patients who fell during the pilot were assessed as confused and may not have benefitted from the “Call Don’t Fall” sign.
• Surveys collected were n=35 patients and n=18 nursing staff (seven day shift; 11 night shift).
• Both patient and nursing staff survey responses were positive for each item.

DISCUSSION

• Patient and nursing staff comments will be examined further to make changes to the “Call Don’t Fall” sign and future implementation.
• Recommendations were made to make the sign more vibrant.
• After changes, the “Call Don’t Fall” sign should be implemented on all medical-surgical units at the facility and further evaluated for effectiveness.

REFERENCES