Patient Falls: Improving Patient Safety, Continuing Challenge

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Objectives

- Discuss the use of action research within an acute care setting to advance patient safety related to falls prevention

- Identify potential strategies for preventing falls within an acute care population

Neither author has any known or potentially perceived conflicts of interest with the content being presented.

Neither author has received any known sponsorship or commercial support regarding the information to be presented.
Significance

- Challenges identifying high risk patients
- Revision of Patient Fall Prevention Program
- Assessments using 3 different aspects of fall potential on admission and each shift
Method

- Retrospective chart review
- Non-experimental
- Random selection of completed charts in Medical/Surgical units
Results

Pre-Implementation N=91
8 Months Post Implementation N=90

Age:
- 0-39 N=29
- 40-59 N=34
- 50-79 N=75
- 80-100 N=42

Gender:
- Male N=86
- Female N=94

Number of Falls during Stay:
- No N=166
- Yes N=15

Ethnicity:
- Anglo N=129
- Hispanic N=42
- Other N=10

Length of Stay:
- 1-9 N=117
- 10-19 N=41
- 20-29 N=15
- 30-39 N=5
- 40+ N=2

Hendrich Scale:
- Admin 2nd 5th
- 0-4 N=117 110 123
- 5-11 N=64 71 57

Mobility Scale:
- Admin 2nd 5th
- 0-3 N=92 70 82
- 4-7 N=30 43 41
- 8-11 N=59 68 58
Conclusion

• No Statistically Significant results found

• Statistics moving toward statistical significance
  • Nursing Judgment
  • Mobility Scale

• Hendrich Scale did not demonstrate statistical significance

• Potential Strategies:
  • Both tools may not need utilized
  • Nursing Judgment needs to be further clarified and supported
  • Conduct a second study to determine what is consistent in those who did fall
References


