Preventing Falls by Implementing a Fall Agreement.

Danielle Glen BSN, RN
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Danielle.Glen@lvhn.org

Nicole Morin

Megan Phegley

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Preventing Falls by Implementing a Fall Agreement

Danielle Glen, Nicole Morin, and Megan Phegley
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

Background

- A progressive increase in number of falls on 5T/Medical-surgical/oncology floor.
  - FY 15 – 24 falls
  - FY 16 – 26 falls
  - FY 17 (pre-project implementation June 2017-August 2017)
    - June -2
    - July – 3
    - August - 6
- LVHN RNs are identifying and documenting patients at risk for falls while in the hospital based on CPM fall score.
- Opportunities identified during root cause analyses and peer review indicate there is an opportunity to increase utilization of fall prevention interventions.
- LVHN RNs are not consistently communicating patient’s fall score during change of shift report.
- Goal of unit was 24 falls for fiscal year 2017.

Methods

- Discussed use of Fall Agreement with Risk Manager Michaelene Panzarella and Quality Specialist Susan Deturk.
- Created a Fall Agreement tailored to a medical-surgical/oncology unit
- Educated 30 5T registered nurses on the implementation process through e-mail and word of mouth.
- The Fall Agreement was signed by alert and oriented patients during the admission process.
- The Fall Agreement was displayed in the patient’s room as a visual cue.
- Total number of falls pre- and post- implementation of fall contract was collected.

Results

- Patients who met criteria for the Fall Agreement remained free from falls.
- Two falls occurred during implementation; however, one patient did not meet criteria to receive the Fall Agreement due to mental status and the other patient had a medical emergency upon arrival to unit and was unable to receive the agreement before the patient fell.

Conclusion

- No patients who met our inclusion criteria sustained a fall after receiving the fall agreement.
- Results cannot be solely attributed to Fall Agreement:
  - Multiple fall prevention initiatives were implemented during the same time frame
  - Due to short period of implementation, there was a lack of compliance with staff RNs handing out the fall agreement.
  - The month the Fall Agreement was implemented 5T had 0 falls along with two other months in FY17 that did not have the Fall Agreement in place; therefore, the decrease in falls cannot be solely contributed to the contract.
- The Fall Agreement will be continued on the current unit as a part of the action plan and in hopes of decreasing falls into the next fiscal year.

References