

Quality Improvement Abstract

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“Call, Don’t Fall”: Patients’ views on fall education in an acute care setting

Background: Nurses routinely educate patients to call for assistance when getting out of bed to prevent falls. Yet, patients do not necessary for call for assistance. Evidence suggests that more than half of inpatient falls are from patients who were cognitively oriented and could have asked for assistance. Reasons that patients may not seek for assistance have been suggested in the literature, however this has not been evaluated in this acute care hospital.

Purpose: The primary purpose of this project is to identify patients’ knowledge, perspectives, and behaviors related to fall prevention in one acute care hospital.

Methods: Patients admitted to medical and surgical floors in one hospital will be interviewed. Patients will be asked to participate in the interview if they are considered as high fall risk using the hospital fall risk assessment tool, are able to carry on conversation in English, and have been in the hospital for at least overnight. A semi-structured interview (approximately 15 minutes) will be conducted at the bedside. Interview questions are formulated based on fall prevention and patient education literature to capture the knowledge, perspectives (risk and coping perception), and patient behavior on fall prevention.

Results: Data are currently being collected to gather at least 40 interview results. Results will be analyzed to identify trends and gaps in patients’ fall prevention knowledge, perspectives, and self-reported behavior changes.

Conclusion: This project is expected to identify common topics and communication approaches that nurses can incorporate into their routine fall education in acute care settings.

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Title of Abstract	"Call, Don't Fall": Patients' views on fall education in an acute care setting
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