

Fall Prevention Deserves Your Attention!

Poster presentation prepared for Patient safety: Navigating the new normal, Feb. 7 - 8, 2023

Jennifer Garrett, QAPI



Overview/project description

Falls Committee Created:

A multidisciplinary committee united to prevent patient falls.

Consist of all departments within the hospital setting (nursing, radiology, PT/OT, dietary, housekeeping, administration, etc) Meeting monthly to discuss issues and brainstorm ideas for fall prevention.

Actions taken:

- GEMBA Walks
- Fall Risk Question Games
- Relocation of staff so they are stationed in the hall ways closer to patient rooms
- Medication review by Pharmacy for patients of high fall risk
- Dietary changes for fall risk patients (when applicable and beneficial)
- Patient's fall risk score including in shift report
- Implementation of NO PASS ZONES and education for all hospital staff on meaning and importance--nobody passes a call light.

Goals/objectives

REDUCE PATIENT FALLS

- ✓ Spread employee awareness of fall risks and ways to prevent patient falls.
- ✓ Encourage an environment based on the principles of patient safety and quality of patient care.

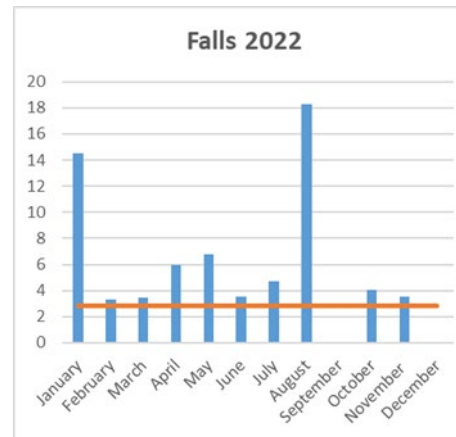
Statistics from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality:

- Each year, somewhere between 700,000 and 1,000,000 people in the United States fall in the hospital.
- Research shows that close to one-third of falls can be prevented.
- Falls lead to increased healthcare utilization.
- Falls lead to increased patient

According to the CDC, falls are the leading cause of injury related death among adults age 65 and older.

Methods/measurements

Falls at SCARH are measured as a percentage (falls/patient days). Benchmark for patient falls is 2.8% as a system goal. SCARH baseline was 14.44% January 2022.



Results/findings/conclusions

Implementation of the Falls Committee in August 2022 has lead to a decrease in patient falls. Our low inpatient census allows for better supervision of our patients in comparison to larger facilities, but makes it difficult to meet benchmark because even one patient fall will place our percentage higher than 2.8.

Relocation of nursing staff has lead to easier access of patients with a more timely response to clinical alarms.

NO PASS ZONES have created a higher awareness for all staff about the importance of patient safety and fall prevention. SCARH is working as a team to prevent falls and keep patients safe and cared for. All departments answer call lights and bed alarms.

Benchmark was met for quarter 4 of 2022 with a fall rate of 2.53%

References

- <https://www.ahrq.gov/patient-safety/settings/hospital/fall-prevention/toolkit/index.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/falls/data/>

Acknowledgments

Quality patient care would not be possible without the full participation of front line staff. Many thanks all employees at Summers County ARH for coming together as a team to improve patient safety and care for our community while preventing patient falls.

- ❖ A special shout out to Allison St. Clair, Med/Surg Nurse Manager and founder/leader of the SCARH Falls Committee for pulling everyone together for the cause.

Summers County ARH

115 SUMMERS HOSPITAL RD
HINTON, WV 25951-5172
304-466-1000

Falls 2022

