

Weekly Falls Review Team: Nurse-Driven Interdisciplinary Initiative to Decrease Patient Falls in the Acute Care Setting.

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Background & Significance:

• CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System is a 312-bed acute care facility located in Northeast Texas

• 1998 – American Nurses Association addresses patient safety issues by collecting data on nursing-sensitive indicators reflecting the process and outcomes of nursing care. Patient falls is included.

• 1999 – The Institute of Medicine report To Err is Human: Building Safer Health Systems is released. According to IHI, "...patient falls are among the most common occurrences reported in hospitals..."

• 2005 – The Joint Commission issues additional National Patient Safety Goals for Hospitals including reducing the risk of patient harm resulting from falls by implementing a Fall Reduction Program.

• 2008 – Centers for Medicare Services discontinues reimbursement for eight hospital acquired conditions. Costs related to patient injuries, including those from falls, will not be paid.

CHRISTUS St. Michael nurses demonstrated their impact as patient advocates by leading the design and implementation of this innovative fall prevention program.

The Weekly Falls Review Team meeting exemplifies how an effective interdisciplinary approach, applied in any setting, incorporates each discipline's unique view of fall analysis and prevention.



Weekly Falls Review Team: CNE, Professional Nursing Practice, Nursing Resources/Staffing, Clinical Education, Nursing Informatics, Risk Management, Physical Medicine, Pharmacy, Plant Operations

Purpose:

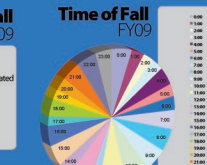
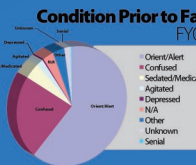
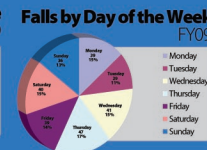
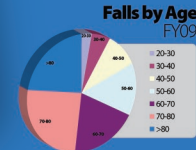
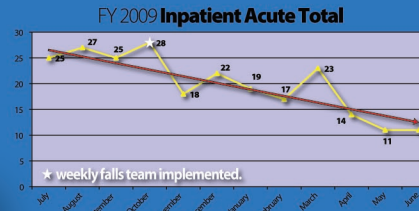
• Improve quality outcomes by reducing patient falls, and the associated costs to the patient and the hospital, through the implementation of an effectively designed interdisciplinary evidence based initiative.

• Achieve a patient fall rate that correlates positively with NDNQI goals.

Results:

• Since implementation of a Falls Prevention Protocol, focused falls education for all hospital Associates, and inception of an interdisciplinary Weekly Falls Review Team,

CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System experienced a greater than 50% reduction in monthly patient falls during FY 2009.



Strategies & Implementation:

• Adopted an EBP **Fall Prevention Protocol** developed by members of CHRISTUS Health EBP Advisory Council.

• Conducted round-the-clock **Nursing Forums** – "Falls and Never Events." Included fall prevention education.

• Implemented **fall prevention strategies** as outlined in the protocol.

• Established a **Weekly Falls Review Team** with interdisciplinary partners.

• Every fall from the previous week is **presented at the meeting by the nurse** who was caring for the patient at the time of the fall.

• Discuss patient history, reason for admission, fall risk assessment, implementation of fall prevention strategies outlined in the Fall Prevention Protocol.

• Discuss medications, staffing effectiveness, environmental issues, and the functionality of equipment including fall beds and alarms.

• Resolved any related issues quickly.

LESSONS LEARNED:
Patient falls are an equal opportunity event.

• Data collected indicated little correlation between time of day, day of the week, or adult patient age, and associated risks for falls.

• Patients who were "oriented and alert" fell more often than patients who were "confused"

• Individual nurse's accountability for the patient's safety and implementation of specific strategies have had the greatest impact on preventing patient falls.