

**The Miriam Hospital** A Lifespan Partner

## Purpose

### **The National Patient Safety** Goal 09.02.01



Implement a fall reduction program

**Evaluate the** program

**This Emergency Department** wanted to see how its number of falls compared to other emergency departments and implement a fall reduction program.



Setting-Teaching, urban ED with 55,000 annual visits

# How Do ED's Compare When Trying to Catch a Falling Star!

Nancy M. Robin RN, M. Ed, CEN Darcy Abbott RN, MS, CEN **Denise Brennan RN, MSN, CNL** The Miriam Hospital, Providence, R. I.

### Significance

A quality indicator for falls needed to be established in the ED

Inpatient Falls based on falls per 1000 patient days



Emergency **Department** Falls based on ?



Our initial fall data 10/1/07-9/30/08 --26 falls.



How to set goal?

How to set the threshold?

How to compare with other ED's?

Literature search **Emergency Nurses Association** (ENA) Benchmark Guide-no comparison data

# **Strategy and** Implementation

Local emergency departments and the ENA Educators list serve were polled for information



How do ED's establish a method for comparison when no previous benchmark is found in the literature?

FALLS PER 10,000 VISITS WAS SELECTED.

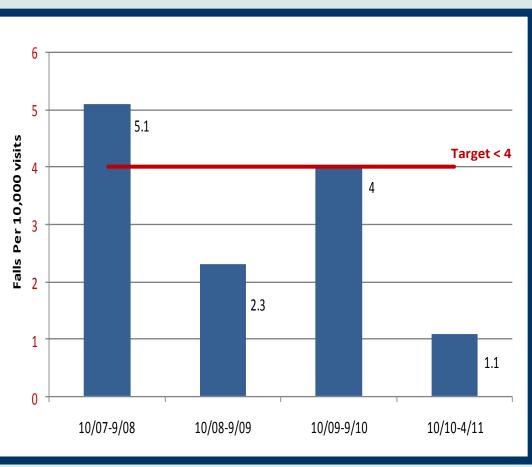
Limited sample fall rate-2.82 falls per 10,000 visits

This hospital's ED fall rate-5.1 per 10,000 visits in 2008

After data collection in 2008, fall risk assessments and interventions were initiated on every ED patient.

Screening				
Falling Star : in B4 90 years old, White Female CC: Fall Injury	Allg: <u>Latex allergy- denies;</u> PMHx: Hypertension; Ulcers		Attend: TEST PHCP: Nurse: robin	U Time
<sup>08/30</sup> Fall Risk- Patient is at elevated risk due to general weakness, history of falls, medications. Patient has received sedation within the past 24 hours. Elevated risk interventions- Fall prevention by assisting patient with ambulation, providing toileting at frequent intervals.				
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	Universal fall precautions		Anticoagulants	
			Psychotropic	
	Elevated risk intervention:	= .	Anticonvulsants	
Braden Scale Dysphagia Screen			Diuretics Narcotics	
Suicide Risk Assessment			Antihypertensives	
H1N1 Flu Screening			Sedation within 24hrs	
		History of falls		Previous
		Depression		
		Medications		Next
		Other		
I				Done









With annual census changing, it is important to have a valid means of evaluation.

It is also important to benchmark with other ED's.

ED's need to be more transparent so best practices can be shared



# **Evaluation**

#### Fall data monitored monthly



**Fall Data** 10/01/07 to 04/30/11

# **Implications for** Practice

