Objectives:
• Identify evidence-based strategies for reducing patient falls
• Demonstrate how interdisciplinary collaboration and creative problem-solving can positively impact nurse-sensitive clinical indicators.

Purpose:
The purpose of this presentation is to describe how a [name of hospital] Magnet, [size of hospital] bed community hospital used a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to dramatically decrease patient falls, as demonstrated by full rates that now outperform the means for Magnet hospitals reporting to [organization].

Background:
Preventing patient falls is an important safety focus for hospitals across the country. Identified as a “nurse sensitive” indicator of care quality and safety; patient falls can contribute to increased length-of-stay, complications due to injuries, or even death, in hospitalized patients. Patient falls can result in decreased quality ratings and reduced reimbursement for hospitals.

How we did it:
• Charter interdisciplinary task force
• Thorough literature review of published research on fall prevention
• Analysis of current practice to identify gaps, compliance with current policies, and deviations from best practices
• Organizational-wide adoption of 25 “best practice” recommendations
• Education and expectation for accountability across the organization - from the board room to the break room.

What worked for us:
• Purposeful “TAB” rounding every two hours; seek patient and [name of environment] feedback
• Thorough assessment that you will be back, if they need you they should “call before they fall”
• Use of bed and chair alarms on all at-risk patients; PAR levels of alarms placed in nurse server outside every patient room.
• Use of electronic medical record to generate daily fall risk assessment by RN; “traveling” documentation of fall risk; use of “stop-off tool” and “ticket to ride” to communicate fall risk to other disciplines

Conclusion:
Falls can never fall off your radar screen – it must be an ongoing priority
Everyone in the organization is responsible for being part of the solution to prevent patient falls
Celebrate your accomplishments along the way
Develop a culture of quality and safety such that fall prevention remains the forefront every day.