Poster 11: Practice  
Sustaining a Fall Prevention Initiative – It Can Be Done!  

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In 2007 an interdisciplinary committee was formed to address new approaches in fall prevention. During the first year, the interdisciplinary committee effected policy changes in many departments and provided multi-hospital wide education to improve the quality of patient care related to fall prevention. The committee also supported the development of a nursing Fall Prevention Resource Group.

Many hospitals have had fall prevention initiatives, but have failed to keep fall prevention as a priority with so many other issues in health care. The monthly meetings of both the Interdisciplinary Committee and the Resource Group keep our fall prevention initiative alive. Accomplishments over the second year of the initiative include: development of a Nursing Manager/Supervisor Post Fall follow-up form, participation in a Patient Safety Goal Carnival, development of a hospital Fall Prevention and a Nursing Patient Rounding policies, a fall prevention video on the Getwell Network with video prompts for patients to watch, a daily report for the off-shift supervisors of patients who have fallen during their hospitalization, pop ups on the computer screen to remind caregivers that a particular patient has fallen during hospitalization, implementation of the pediatric Humpty Dumpty Fall Assessment Tool, education in orientation on how to properly assess a patient’s fall risk using the Morse Tool, and development of a standardized unit sign to show the number of falls on their unit.

The evaluation of this initiative is ongoing. Each fall report is reviewed to identify contributing factors. Monthly fall rates are evaluated for patterns to allow for problem solving. An intensive fall analysis is held for all serious falls to identify any system issues that can be addressed. Patient safety is our first priority so this initiative will continue.