

Head Over Heels in the ED: What's the Problem?



Introduction

- Falls in the Emergency Department (ED) are poorly understood.
- ED is complex and dynamic in nature. It is a very specialized unit with unique patient demographics.
- Falls are the leading cause of traumatic death in elderly. A fall in the ED commonly leads to further decline of health.
- Effective fall prevention methods are important in maintaining patient safety and decreasing the risk for trauma, injury or death from a fall.

Methods

- A five question survey was developed to assess Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses in ED in Interior Health Authority (IHA). A sample size of 100 surveys was used in data analysis.
- Teaching sessions were developed from survey results to address gaps and barriers.

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Results

- Nurses have an extensive understanding of factors that put patients at an increased risk of falls.
- Nurses also report being aware of fall prevention methods in the ED.
- Surprisingly, it is noted that a lack of equipment in emergency rooms is a significant barrier.



Conclusion

- Nurses feel that lack of equipment impacts their ability to provide fall prevention methods
- Each nurse has a different view of what categorizes a fall
- Nurses reported feeling engaged during the discussion sessions and were able to brainstorm prevention strategies in their ED.

Next Steps

- Further research is required specific to ED
- Equipment issues need to be addressed to support nurses in the workplace
- Falls prevention education provided to staff.
- Fall prevention should be incorporated into daily huddles.
- Education sessions/discussions continue for all ED.

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