

*Manitoba Health, Healthy Living & Seniors (MHLS) supports reporting and learning from patient safety events. The focus of a patient safety review is to closely look at the health care system that surrounds and interacts with those giving and receiving care. The goal is to identify risks to patient safety and recommend the most effective ways to minimize risk and improve the delivery of healthcare.*

## **Patient Safety Learning Advisory**

### **Hip Fracture related to a patient fall**

**Summary:**

---

A senior patient, grabbed by a co-patient fell to the ground while attempting to release the co-patient's grasp. Upon initial assessment, the patient sustained a small skin tear, but was able to get up with minimal assistance and no complaints of pain. Hours later, the patient began to complain of left hip discomfort. The patient was assessed by nursing staff to have no obvious injuries and given pain medication.

Two days later, a written referral was completed for the medical doctor to assess the patient due to complaints of pain when asked. The patient was found to have a suspected hip fracture. The patient was taken to the local hospital where they were diagnosed with a fractured hip and underwent surgical repair.

**Keywords:**

Fall, assessment, hip fracture

**Device Name (if applicable):**

**Drug/Name/Fluid Name: (if applicable):**

**Type of Analysis:** single event

**Topic:** Falls

## **Findings of the Review:**

---

Prior to the incident, the patient had been assessed by the Occupational Therapist to be at high risk for falls. Despite this, the patient was resistant to utilize any recommended protective equipment.

Nursing assessments and minimal complaints of pain did not result in an immediate assessment by the medical doctor.

It was unclear if the incident was verbally communicated at daily change of shift reports. There were no documented progress notes in the patient's chart the day after the fall.

## **System Learning:**

---

To decrease the risk of serious harm and future events, a Fall Prevention Task Team has begun a quality improvement project to implement universal fall precautions throughout the site.

Existing policies on fall prevention and management required the addition of the medical consult for selected patients including those deemed to be Category 2-6 on the severity of harm scale.

The need for both verbal and written communication needs to be reviewed with staff to emphasize the need for consistent transfer of information between outgoing and oncoming shift staff.

Though the site cares for individuals whose condition may not change for a number of days, a requirement for daily charting for every patient has been implemented.

**Date of Posting: October 2016**