

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) 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

Fall Resulting in Fracture

Summary:

A long term care resident sustained a fall that resulted in fractured pelvis.

The resident's care plan indicated a need for a pelvic restraint and a chair alarm. Neither was in place at the time of the fall.

Implementation of the care plan would have reduced the likelihood of the fall and resulting fracture.

Keywords: falls, fractures

Device Name (if applicable):

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

Type of Analysis: single event

Findings of the Review:

- The resident was admitted from a facility where she had been waiting long term care placement.
- The sending facility provided documentation of a known history of falls and direction related to falls reduction interventions (e.g. toileting routine, restraint use, transferring, and chair/bed alarms). This background information was not transcribed from the sending facility/previous care plan to the new long term care facility care plan.
- Shift to shift communication within the long term care facility lacked clarity related to the use of restraints for the resident. This information may not have been shared between staff/between shifts within the receiving facility.

System Learning:

- Continue to audit the implementation of the Integrated Care Plan as per policy.
- Implement standardized information transfer during shift reports within long term care settings to improve communication during shift handover.

Date of Posting:

June 2017