

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

Fall from Bed with Serious Injury

Summary:

A personal care home resident fell from their bed following the removal of side rails.

The bed rails were removed due to the risk of entrapment in the gap between the rails.

The fall resulted in a head injury and a fractured radius.

Keywords:

Fall from bed, fracture, bed side rails

Device Name (if applicable):

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

Type of Analysis: single event

Topic: Falls

Findings of the Review:

The resident's bed side rails had been removed due to bed design safety concerns. When the side rails were removed, alternative falls prevention interventions were not implemented. It was recognized that a high/low bed was required for this resident.

The safety concerns emphasized the dangers related to side rail use requiring the removal of bed side rails. Once completed, fall prevention interventions and strategies were not the primary focus.

Changes in the workforce contributed to a lack of continuity of care and lack of communication to direct care staff.

The presence of multiple competing priorities contributed to the deficiency in communication related to assessing risk and development of falls prevention strategies following the removal of the bed rails.

System Learning:

Consider conducting a Failure Modes Effects Analysis (FMEA) prior to implementing significant direct care changes in order to determine and implement potential risk mitigation strategies.

Develop a concise Failure Modes Effects Analysis (FMEA) to facilitate the assessment of risk and potential mitigation strategies when process changes are planned.