

*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***

### ***IV Insertion Prior to Radiology Examination***

**Summary:**

A patient was having an intravenous inserted in preparation for a CT scan.

The patient fell from their chair and struck the back of their head and spine.

**Keywords:**

Preparation for radiology examination

**Device Name (if applicable):**

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

**Type of Analysis:** single event

**Topic:** Falls

### **Findings of the Review:**

When the patient complained of nausea, the technologist briefly stepped away to obtain a cold compress. While the patient was unattended, the patient fell.

There is no policy to handle this sort of event. The staff has not been trained on how to deal with this situation. As such, the technologist did not provide clinically accurate instructions to the patient on what to do.

The design of the physical space is not conducive to a technologist being able to appropriately handle this type of situation singlehandedly.

Communication with the patient and his/her family during the investigation following the incident was confusing; the patient/family felt that information provided was insufficient.

### **System Learning:**

Review the learning from other RHA fall prevention programs. If it is relevant to this setting, use to develop a training/educational package for staff that works with patients.

Establish protocols for handling patients exhibiting clinical symptoms such as nausea/dizziness. Where applicable, a standardized approach should be used in all phlebotomy/DI areas. This should include instructions to not leave patients unattended.