

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

Unintended dislodgement of feeding tube

Summary:

A client with a progressive neuromuscular condition required tube feeding due to dysphagia. The client's gastrostomy tube was dislodged by another client living with dementia residing on the same unit. The gastrostomy tube was reinserted. The client then developed aspiration pneumonia and passed away shortly afterwards.

Keywords: gastrostomy tube, aspiration pneumonia

This review is based on a single event

Findings of the Review:

Behavioural symptoms of dementia made it difficult to monitor the offending client's actions.

Education of staff, clients and families in safe feeding practices may reduce the risk of harm for those clients with dysphagia symptoms.

System Learning:

Develop the safest possible behavioural care plan for those clients who have unpredictable symptoms of dementia using the P.I.E.C.E.S. approach.

Utilize best practices when administering enteral feedings including the anchoring of external feeding tubes securely with tape or commercial fixation device to prevent accidental dislodgment.

Educate staff facilitators for Testing of Texture Modified Diet and inform staff who assist with client feeding to complete “Self-Learning Package for responsible for Monitoring and /or Feeding (clients).”

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