

*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***

### ***Unwitnessed fall***

#### **Summary:**

A patient received Hydromorphone, Dimenhydrinate, and Zopiclone regularly at bedtime.

The patient was assisted to the commode by staff. The staff gave the patient some privacy and advised the patient to ring the call bell for assistance when finished.

The patient attempted to transfer independently and fell. The fall resulted in a fractured ankle

#### **Keywords:**

Fall from commode, fracture

**Findings of the Review:**

No documentation of a falls risk assessment being completed on admission.

No documentation on the care plan/flowsheet that the patient was a high fall risk to alert staff.

**System Learning:**

Develop ways to ensure that patients at high risk for falls are identified to all members of the healthcare team.

Inform patients of their need to participate in ensuring that their care is safe and what they need to do to stay safe.

Document the patient's understanding of their involvement in their care plan.

Should the patient not agree with any suggested interventions, educate the patient regarding the importance of these interventions. Document the outcome of the conversation in the health record.

**Date of Posting:** February 2018