

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:

During the night, a client stumbled when rising, resulting in a fractured femur.

Keywords: falls, fracture

Type of Analysis: single event

Findings of the Review:

The client room did not have night lighting.

The client unpinned the bed alarm, which deactivated the exit alarm feature.

After a previous fall, the Falls Intervention Checklist and Care Plan were not updated.

Necessary documentation was kept in multiple locations.

There was a lack of communication between health care providers during the night shift.

System Learning:

Conduct an inventory of current stock of pin alarms and sensor pads and determine if inventory available is sufficient to meet the needs of the facility. Purchase additional units if needed.

Consider the use of floor sensor pads or bed alarms with clients that do not use their call bell.

Incorporate falls prevention documentation into the safety section on the flowsheet, to support timely documentation and communication of current interventions.

Provide education for health care providers regarding expectations of health record documentation.

Review nursing roles and responsibilities regarding heavy workload processes.

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