

*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**

### **Humeral Head Fracture**

#### **Summary:**

A personal care home resident sustained a humeral neck fracture. The mechanism of injury is not known.

**Keywords:** Fracture, Mechanical Lift, Mobility, Documentation

This review is based on a single event.

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

When bruising was noted, this information was not documented or conveyed at the change of shift. This delay in documentation may have contributed to a delay in clinical assessment.

Concerns regarding the resident's ability to transfer using a sit stand lift were raised after the incident. A regional policy supporting Safe Client Handling was in development. The existing policy was utilized which did not align with current training. This may have contributed to the use of an incorrect mechanical lift for the client's needs.

The resident was cognitively impaired, known to be aggressive and resist care. A behavioral/psychological assessment was not completed. There is limited number of staff members who have completed the approved regional behavioral/psychological assessment training.

The mechanism of injury was unable to be determined.

#### **System Learning:**

Review and discuss documentation best practices.

Support the development and implementation of a standardized process for information transfer at care transitions.

Facilitate implementation of the Safe Client Handling Policy including education.  
Implement a completion plan for facility staff that require Safe Client Handling education within their scope of practice.

Facilitate behavioral/psychological assessment training - Dementia Care education.  
Establish a process for monitoring rates of completion for staff as required within their scope of practice.

**Date of Posting: October 2018**