

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 From Bed With Fracture

Summary:

A personal care home resident fell from the bed, sustaining a hip fracture

Keywords: fall, fracture, bed

This review is based on a single event.

Findings of the Review:

The resident utilized bed rails to promote comfort, safety and positioning while in bed. A bed with a built in bed alarm was initiated due to resident's attempts to get out of bed.

It was learned that at the time of the fall the resident's bed had been changed to one without a built in bed alarm. There was no documentation of when the beds were switched.

The time of the fall occurred between hourly rounding and it was noted that the bed rail was in the down position. Staff were certain that the side rails were raised after providing bedtime care. It is not known how the bed rail came to be in the down position.

An inspection of the bed could not be completed as the bed asset number was not identified.

Inconsistent information in documentation contributed to resident specific falls interventions not being utilized and increased the likelihood of the fall.

System Learning:

Review of clinical documentation standards.

Cross-reference and reconcile resident-specific falls prevention interventions documented in the care plan, with the resident's other care documents and environment/room.

Complete an inspection of existing beds and implement a preventative maintenance bed inspection program.

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