

ENHANCING AWARENESS OF NURSES ON FALL REDUCTION USING THE HOURLY ROUNDING

Lorna Jean B. Danila, RN & Piera Wong, AOCNS
lornadanila@yahoo.com

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center

Purpose and PICO Question

To reduce the number of patient falls among patients in the Medical-Surgical/Oncology unit of San Francisco General Hospital by 50% between the period of June 15 to August 14, 2009. "Among medical-surgical patients in an acute care setting, does hourly rounding reduce the number of falls by 50% from the period of June 15 to August 14, 2009?"

Background and Evidence Review

Based on the unusual occurrence report gathered from the period of April 15 to June 14, 2009 on the number of falls of patients in the Medical-Surgical/Oncology unit, there was an alarming increase of falls which signaled an urgency to implement ways or measures to address this patient safety issue. Hourly rounding by the nursing staff on their patients was thought to be one intervention that can be implemented to reduce the number of patient falls. The impact of hourly rounding on patients in an acute care setting on 14 hospitals nationwide using a specific protocol was reported by the Studer Group's Research Subsidiary, the Alliance for Health Care (2006) one of the results was reduction in the number of patient falls. An article by Federwisch, A. (2008), attested that this practice helped improve patient satisfaction and safety, while decreasing call light use. In addition, a study by Meade et al. (2006), concluded that hourly rounding does not only reduce the number of call light use and increase patient satisfaction, but also reduce falls. According to a systematic review done by Miller, L. and Limbaugh, C. M. (2008), a two-pronged approach for a fall-prevention program was developed. The first approach was to re-educate staff on the fall risk factors and the second approach involved the implementation of a "purposeful rounding" protocol.

Methods

A quantitative, quasi-experimental method was used. Data collection was gathered based on the unusual occurrence report on patient falls in the unit. Analysis of the data was done by comparing the number of patient falls before and after the intervention.

Result

There was a reduction of patient falls in the medical-surgical/oncology unit by 30% between the period of June 15 to August 14, 2009.

Selected References:

Meade, C.M., Bursell, A.L., & Ketelsen, L. (2006). Effects of nursing rounds on patients' call light use, satisfaction, and safety. *American Journal of Nursing*, 106(9), 58-70.

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Miller, L. & Limbaugh, CM. (2008). Applying evidence to develop medical oncology fall-prevention program. *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing* 12(1), 158-160.

Key Words: falls, hourly rounding, acute care setting, fall prevention