

Post Fall Guidelines

This post falls guideline is to assist the nurse in the care/management of a patient after a fall.

- If a fall occurs, immediately:
 - Provide the patient with immediate care and support
 - Examine the patient for any injuries, especially head and extremity trauma
 - Assess mental and physical status for changes from pre-fall status
 - Assess whether or not patient can be moved to bed for further evaluation
 - Assess vital signs and neuro assessment
 - Eliminate further immediate hazards
- Reassess patient's fall risk factors, identify and initiate appropriate interventions.
- Notify the physician, CNS, and ND. During off shifts and weekends, notify the resource nurse.
- From the physician, clarify the needs for:
 - Ongoing neurological assessment, diagnostic tests, consults, treatments, and monitoring.
 - If appropriate, ensure that the patient's family or Proxy has been notified
- Document event in Progress notes using facts, do not document incident report in notes
- Include patient's level of injury and condition after the fall in the progress notes,
- Complete your Nursing Assessment and utilize the Fall Intervention Sheet
- Document the interventions in place to prevent further falls on Fall Intervention Sheet, utilize the transportation sticker prn, fall risk signage
- Update the Morse Fall Scale
- Report via Web Based Safety Reporting System
- Utilize the Patient at Risk to Fall Intervention Sheet
- *With your Nursing Director and/or Clinical Specialist, participate in a post fall discussion and review the updated plan of care, during off shift review plan with the Resource Nurse**
- Incorporate fall risk assessment and interventions into your written/oral report
- Communicate fall to members of team, including MD, Staff, Resource Nurse, ND, CNS
- *CNS Reminder: after the first 24 hours, the CNS reviews the Safety Report and completes NDNQI severity score, see below.**

(For further info, see Adverse Event Policy)

The NDNQI severity score definitions are as follows:

Score	Definition
0= none or no injury	No injury as the result of the fall
1= minor injury	Injury requires cleaning the wound, simple dressing, ice, limb elevation and or topical medications
2= moderate injury	Injury requires steri strips/skin glue, sutures and or splinting
3= major injury	Injury requires cast/ traction, surgery, causes internal injury and or requires consultation for a neurological or internal injury
4= death	Injury sustained from the fall is directly attributed to the patient's death