



Manitoba Health 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 with Fracture

Summary: A patient was admitted to a health care facility with a urinary tract infection (UTI) related to an indwelling catheter. He/she had a history of dementia, with increasing confusion related to the UTI. The patient mobilized independently with a walker and was at a risk for falls.

The patient was started on Trazadone for increased confusion and agitation. Following the initial dose of Trazadone the patient was found several hours later on the floor beside his/her bed, sustaining a fractured right hip that required surgery and a lengthy hospitalization.

Keywords: Fall, Fractured hip

This review is based on a single event.

Findings of the Review:

The site only has tag alarms for confused patients, and some patients can unclip the alarm adding to his/her fall risk.

The patient with dementia was acutely confused from a UTI and was placed in the only room available at the end of the hall furthest from the nursing station.

The patient was started on Trazadone (for increased confusion and agitation) the evening prior to the fall. This medication has common side effects of dizziness, faintness, and lightheadness that increased his/ her fall risk.

The site has one Health Care Aid (HCA) scheduled 24/7 for 25 in-patients in a two winged unit.

Recommendations:

Purchase 6 seat/bed alarms for site.

Educate 100% of nursing staff at site if patient requires an alarm for confusion, he/she should be put in a room close to the nursing station.

Re-educate/reinforce 80% of nursing staff at the site on High Risk Precautions for Falls.

Consider increasing staffing level by 1 health care aide (HCA) on shift 24/7.