Fall Reduction on a Medical Surgical Unit in a Rural Hospital

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Background
Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington is an integrated not-for-profit health care provider serving a rural community in Southeastern Wisconsin. The small size does not reduce the array of services, resources, and specialties that we have available for our community. We partner with our patients to provide comprehensive, individualized, quality healthcare. This makes health care more accessible and efficient.

The Problem
In 2013 Aurora Memorial Hospital ended the year of 2013 with 33 falls.

- Two of the falls resulted in significant injury for our patients.
- Our falls per patient day ratio was 5.6 falls per patient day.  Action needed to be taken.

- Falls contribute to:
  - functional decline,
  - increased mortality,
  - result in injuries that increase length of stay and
  - could result in need for placement for our elderly population.

- Decreasing falls would be better for our patients and would result in better outcomes and decreased health care costs.

Resources
- From Oct 2013 our hospital was able to acquire new inpatient beds.
- These beds have a feature that allows the RN to program the bed to alarm when certain parameters are breached.

- Training was provided to:
  - All the RNs and ACNA’s on Medical Surgical,
  - ED,
  - ICU,
  - Postoperative Overflow Unit,
  - Physical Therapy staff,
  - Kitchen staff,
  - Radiology, and
  - OR/PACU.

- The Morse fall Scale was not being assessed accurately.
- Increased mortality.
- We functional
- This training was deemed mandatory by educator and all

- Two barriers continued to follow protocol and our total numbers at the 163.
- Another barrier we identified was that the staff had a “that’s not my

- Several barriers were identified.
- The Morse fall Scale was not being assessed accurately.
- This was giving inaccurate scores on patients.
- All RN’s were given educational packets on the correct way to

- Our
- All
- Falling star magnets were placed outside the room on the door frame so anyone that passes that room can see this patient is a fall risk.

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- Bed
- Fall
- ED,
- 3
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