

Tackling patient falls – a collaborative approach, driven by nurse leaders.

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ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

The National Safety Quality Health Service Standards (NSQHS) Comprehensive Care Standard aims to ensure that risks of harm for patients during health care are prevented and managed through targeted strategies. Fremantle Hospital (FH) as part of the Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospital Group (FSFHG) is the largest specialist hospital in Western Australia. Falls for patients at FH has been identified as a significant risk. Nursing leaders have committed to tackle patient falls using a collaborative approach to empower nurses and improve patient outcomes.

Aim/Purpose

The aim of the project is to reduce falls and harm from falls for patients at FH.

Methods/Process

In November 2018 FH experienced a significant increase in falls. Nursing leaders were asked to provide a response to explain why this had occurred. In exploring and understanding the reasons for the increase in falls Nursing leaders embarked upon local, national and international benchmarking, challenged provision and reporting of data and collaborated with peers to identify commonalities between health organisations.

Results/Outcome

Strategies to prevent falls have been in place at FH. Understanding if those strategies have been effective or have made a difference requires further exploration. Collaborating rather than working in isolation has been identified as essential in reducing falls. Nursing leaders have taken the initiative to develop a collaborative falls strategy which has commenced with a root cause analysis considering twelve months of falls related data. It is in the intention to provide these results in the presentation outline the challenges and share best practice.

Recommendations/Conclusions

It is clear there are no miracle answers to prevent all falls from occurring. What is apparent is nurse leaders need to take charge and be involved in driving improvements and change for the benefit of the patient, staff and organisation. Collaborating on strategies rather than working in isolation is the key to success.