

Fall risk reduction teaching tool

Note that patients sign the form and the precautions are reviewed on a regular basis.

Implementation and improvement

During the 12 months before use of the tool was implemented, 46 patients falls were reported. After using the tool for 12 months, 28 falls were reported. Balance was identified as a significant reason for continued patient falls in the home.

In 2015, we made changes to the tool, based on ongoing review of patient falls, as well as research on balance as a factor leading to falls in the home. We collaborated with a team of home care nurses and physical therapists, creating new educational opportunities for patients identified at risk for falls because of altered balance.

Clinicians used the tool with about 1,450 patients over the age of 65 as part of a program to reduce falls. The home care admitting clinician passed information about patient education along to multidisciplinary professionals involved in care during home visits. When a patient fell, staff members accessed a running database containing information on all patients using the teaching tool to determine if the patient was receiving consistent fall prevention education.

By the end of December 2016, 6,275 patients had used this teaching tool. Since July 1, 2014, 99 patient falls were reported. As of this writing, 1.57% of patients who participated in the program experienced falls.

Falls risk reduction

This image shows the impact of our tool.

