



FALLS: WHAT, WHEN AND HOW

Managers

What ...IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IN PREVENTING FALLS?

As a leader in the facility, you are vital to ensuring the safety of our residents. Understanding the consequences of falls and the processes that are used to prevent falls is vital to ensuring our resident avoid events that could lead to injury. You are responsible to ensure that safety measures are followed, both globally and well as individually. Creating a team that is safety focused will help to confirm that everyone is working toward a mutual goal and that everyone shares the responsibility to prevent falls from happening. In the event that a fall does occur it is your investigation that will help to prevent future incidents for the resident involved, and can also help identify risks to others. Applying the QAPI techniques of Root Cause Analysis and obtaining input from frontline providers, residents and families will allow you to create PDSA cycles that will help prevent falls in the future.

When ...SHOULD FALL RISK BE REVIEWED?

1. On admission and every change in condition
 - Change in orientation
 - Change in mobility
 - Change in continence
 - Change in social habits
 - Change in diet
 - Change in pain level
 - All change, both transient and permanent may present fall risk
2. On a routine schedule when no condition change identified.
 - Often done monthly or quarterly

How ...CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

1. Apply standard QAPI techniques.
2. Know individualized care plan needs
3. Listen to your frontline staff
4. Include others in problem solving
5. Be creative in developing individualized interventions
 - Anticipate needs
 - Create routines
 - Individualized activity assessment
6. When an event happens find the cause and correct, do not place blame
7. Investigate events and near events and report to safety leader
8. Become involved on your fall prevention team

KNOWLEDGE CHECK

- ✓ How do you impact safety as a facility leader?
- ✓ List 2 times falls risk should be reviewed?
- ✓ Identify 3 condition changes that may increase fall risk?
- ✓ How can you create a safety focused team?
- ✓ Who is the Safety leader in your facility?

For more information, and to find a library of free resources, please visit us at www.qualityinsights-qin.org.