

Patient Safety Memo

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PATIENT FALLS

A fall isn't just a fall, particularly if the patient is frail. There could be serious consequences. So to make sure our patients are kept safe while they are in our care, it is vital we are all aware of the role we each play and know our specific duties to reduce the risk of falls.

To ensure that every person in our Trust is aware of their role to reduce falls, we would appreciate if you could complete the brief survey by following the URL provided.



AT OUR HOSPITALS, PATIENT SAFETY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL OF US

During a visit to the NASA space center in 1962, President Kennedy noticed a janitor carrying a broom. He interrupted his tour, walked over to the man and said, "Hi, I'm Jack Kennedy. What are you doing?"

The janitor responded, "I'm helping put a man on the moon, Mr. President."



John F. Kennedy



LUMINITA GARBACIA

HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, QUEEN'S HOSPITAL

I am responsible for helping to prevent falls here in the Emergency Department. A big issue we have here is spilling of liquids, especially cups of tea.

If there is a tea spill my first action is to warn people about the hazard with the yellow sign and make sure to tell people to be careful of falling because some tea had been spilt. I then mop up the tea spill with tissue paper immediately and call the cleaner to clean and dry the area. When the spill has been removed, I put the yellow sign away. If a patient is identified as someone who may spill their tea, we provide them with a special closed cup which they are able to sip from, and the nurses are informed. This further reduces the risk and keeps people safe from falling in the department.



JASON SEEZ
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

At our Trust we work as a team to investigate all serious clinical incidents. Falls are one of the main themes of these. Compared to the national average we are better than many other hospitals in preventing falls, however, when they do occur, it is my job as the executive lead for quality and safety governance to ensure that lessons are learnt and that the actions to prevent patients from falling are implemented. We have established weekly patient safety summits every Tuesday at 1pm, where clinical leads discuss serious incidents openly and without blame in order to learn lessons and implement measures to keep our patients safe.



DR KAWA AMIN
CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN IN CARE OF THE ELDERLY
QUEEN'S HOSPITAL

I am involved in the development of our Trust Falls Prevention programme. We are in the process of bringing together an integrated service for our patients who experience, or are at risk of falls by proposing a four stage care pathway:

First, all adult patients who are admitted to hospital are assessed for their risk of falls. People aged 65 or over are automatically assumed to be at risk. The level of risk of individuals falling is assessed on the basis of their mobility, cognition and the medication they may be taking. At this stage the use of bed rails will be assessed and any walking aids required will be issued.

Second, anyone who is deemed to be at risk of falling will have a falls risk symbol added to their medical chart in order to warn clinical staff of the risk.

Third, we are in the process of reviewing and redesigning a leaflet that will make patients and their carers aware of the importance of falls and the potential serious consequences of a fall to the patient's overall health.

The fourth step is about rehabilitation and continuous practice management. I also work at the community falls clinic and we are in negotiations to refer more of our patients who fall to this clinic, once they have been discharged from BHRUT NHS Trust.

TO ENSURE THAT EVERY PERSON IN OUR TRUST IS AWARE OF THEIR ROLE IN RELATION TO THIS WEEK'S PATIENT SAFETY ISSUE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD COMPLETE THE BRIEF SURVEY.

What measures can we take to reduce the number of falls?

Write response here

Which hospital do you work in?

- | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BARKING HOSPITAL | KING GEORGE HOSPITAL | LOXFORD POLYCLINIC | QUEEN'S HOSPITAL |

I work in...

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLERICAL | ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS | HEALTHCARE SCIENCE SERVICES | MEDICAL AND DENTAL | NURSING AND MIDWIFERY | PATIENT/PUBLIC |

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