

Education: Will Providing Nursing Staff with Fall Prevention Education Improve Patient Safety?

Samantha Madore, RN, Kara Voisine, RN BSN, Tyler McCormick, RN



Background

- 30-50% of patient falls in a hospital result in injury.
- Patients who experience a fall in a hospital increase their length of stay by 6.3 days on average.
- The average cost of a fall with injury is \$14,000.
- The Joint Commission cites communication failures and inadequate staff training and education as significant risk factors contributing to falls.
- Continuing education for health care providers is recognized as the most effective tool in preventing patient falls in the health care setting.

Practice Change

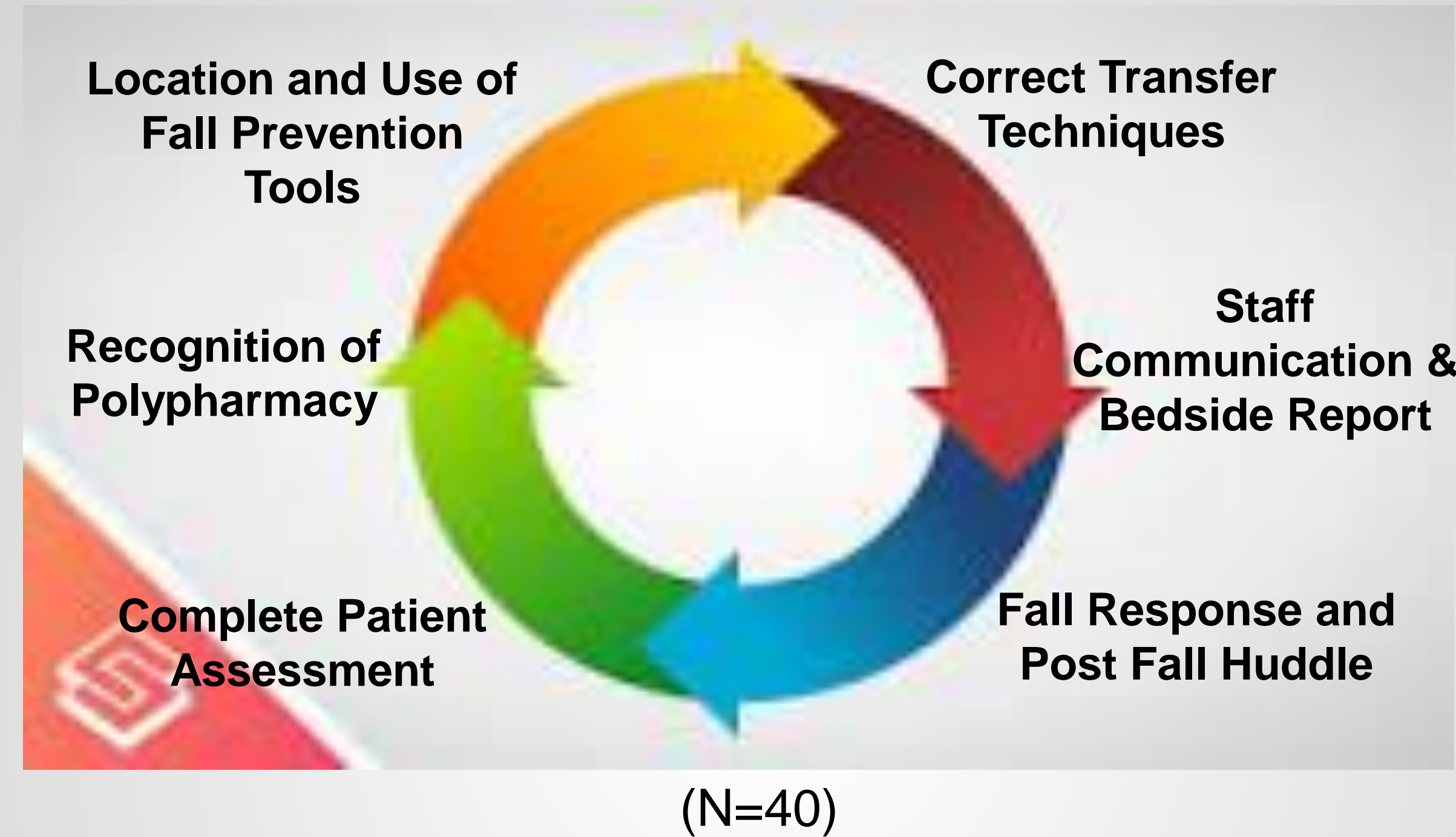
Increase nursing staff knowledge of fall prevention tools and promote patient safety through staff education.

Methods

- Administered anonymous paper pre-surveys to nursing staff.
- Presented educational content to nursing staff via email and staff mailboxes.
- Anonymous post-surveys were administered directly after the educational pamphlet was received by nursing staff.

Measures and Results

Fall Prevention Educational Tool



Pre-Survey Results	Post Survey Results
80% of staff do not know where to access the Fall Management Program Policy on the unit.	100% of staff acknowledged the educational pamphlet provides the location of the Fall Management Program Policy on the unit.
80% of staff feel they were inadequately educated on the Fall Management Program prior to starting patient care.	100% of staff indicated the educational tool directly correlated with nursing staff educational needs.
100% of staff agree they would benefit from additional educational opportunities in regards to patient safety.	100% of staff agree that utilizing the educational tool will increase patient safety.
72% of staff indicate communication as a risk factor of patient safety on the unit.	100% of staff agree to participate in bedside report to improve communication as it relates to patient safety.
50% of staff indicate inadequate patient assessment as a risk factor in patient falls on the unit.	100% of staff indicated the educational tool increased their knowledge of patient fall risk assessment.

Summary/Discussion

- **In order for this educational pamphlet to be successfully implemented we needed to:**
 - Assess nursing staffs knowledge related to patient safety and fall prevention.
 - Implement the tool with nursing staff.
 - Evaluate and interpret the post survey results.
 - Encourage new and current nursing staff to utilize educational tool provided.
- **Some feedback we heard during our education for the staff was:**
 - “Education only works for people willing to learn.”
 - “High acuity with inadequate staffing is the number one risk factor related to patient falls.”
 - “Lack of communication puts patients at risk.”
 - “Outdated equipment are hazardous to patient safety.”

Conclusion

- Patient safety in hospital settings can be increased with targeted education as related to fall prevention.
- The nursing staff on Grant 6 strongly support continuing education, patient safety and the need to raise awareness surrounding negative outcomes as related to patient falls.