

HOSPITAL CHARACTERISTICS

**BRONSON
METHODIST
HEALTH**

- ▶ Kalamazoo, MI
- ▶ 370 beds
- ▶ www.bronsonhealth.com

S . T . E . E . E . P .



SAFE

Hospitalized patients were kept from falls.



PATIENT-CENTERED

Patients and families are asked to call staff for assistance to prevent falls.



EFFECTIVE

New equipment and labeling, as well as family training made the hospital staff more effective.

TEAM MEMBERS

Jenn Bell

Staff Nurse, Divisional Nursing Shared Governance Council Clinical Quality Committee (DNSHGCCQC)

Maggie Benny

Staff Nurse, DNSHGCCQC

Sue Boot

Staff Nurse, DNSHGCCQC

Bill Corder

Safe Patient Handling Committee (SPHC)

Neil Johnson, RN

Vice President, Patient Care Services, Chief Nursing Officer, Executive Sponsor

Grace Kerwin

Staff Nurse, DNSHGCCQC

Emily Kloack

Staff Nurse, DNSHGCCQC

Rita LaReau, RN

Clinical Nurse Specialist, Team Leader

Erica Nagra

Staff Nurse, DNSHGCCQC

CALL TO STOP A FALL

The Problem

Falls can occur at any time during the hospitalization, resulting in complications such as soft tissue changes, fracture and decline in function, as well as increased length of stay and hospital costs. Hospital costs for treatment of a fall in an elderly patient have been estimated at greater than \$15,000. The main goals of Bronson's fall prevention efforts were to 1) reduce patient falls and 2) keep patients as safe as possible during their hospital stay. The divisional nursing shared governance council clinical quality committee initiated a "Call to Stop a Fall" campaign to reduce the risk of falls through patient education, staff training, protocol changes, and by partnering with the safe patient handling committee.

The Solution

Based on a literature search for best practice in fall prevention and a survey of magnet -designated hospitals, the committee implemented the following plan:

- » Staff educated patients and families on fall risk;
- » Guest books, policies and protocols were updated and enhanced;
- » Call to Stop a Fall stickers were placed on patient-call lights;
- » Large octagonal signs were placed in every patient room and bathroom;
- » Stickers were placed on white boards and
- » Equipment, such as gait belts and lifts were purchased.

The hospital added fall-prevention training to new hire orientations, created prevention videos and designed a computer-based learning module for safe patient handling. These interventions enhanced a prevention program that already utilized evidenced based practices, such as

Results

- » In 2007, there was a 77 percent improvement from 2005 with only 2.3 falls per 1,000 patient days.
- » The improvement was sustained in 2008, with 2.5 falls per 1,000 patient days.