**Fall Prevention Program Reduces Both Harm and Costs**

**Medical Express**

Despite the large number of patients falls at hospitals, there are few large-scale studies to quantify the cost savings of intervention programs. The Fall TIPS (Tailoring Interventions for Patient Safety) Program is an evidence-based fall prevention effort implemented in 33 medical and surgical units across 8 hospitals.

Investigators at the Massachusetts General Brigham Healthcare System have used electronic health record data from a large cohort of 900,635 patients to determine the average total cost of a fall. Using 7,858 non-injurious falls and 2,317 injurious ones, they calculated that a fall costs $62,521 (with $35,365 in direct costs) and that injury was not a significant predictor of increased costs.

Given that falls are expensive in terms of both human suffering and health care costs, the authors then conducted an economic analysis of Fall TIPS. The program was implemented for all adults hospitalized from 2013 to 2019 in health care systems in New York and Boston. The researchers found that the intervention program was associated with $22 million in savings at eight study sites across the five-year study period.

"Through a series of clinical trials, the Fall TIPS program has demonstrated reductions in falls and fall-related injuries, and this study indicates that the Fall TIPS program is also cost effective," said corresponding author Patricia C. Dykes, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, FACMI, from the Brigham's Center for Patient Safety, Research, and Practice in the Department of General Internal Medicine. "Our findings suggest that policies which incentivize organizations to implement evidence-based strategies which reduce the incidence of all falls may be effective in reducing both harm and costs."

The paper is published in the journal JAMA (Journal of American Medical Association) Health Forum.

SOURCE: Medical Press (<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-01-evidence-based-fall.html>)

ORIGINAL SOURCE: JAMA (Journal of American Medical Association)

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama-health-forum/fullarticle/2800748?resultClick=1>

**Falls T.I.P.S.**

*Reducing Patient Falls Is an Urgent Priority for Hospitals*

Nationwide, patient falls during hospital stays are a leading cause of death and disability. In fact, hospitalization itself appears to increase a person’s fall risk. A nationwide study found that about three percent of patients fall while in the hospital, while nearly 30% of those who fall sustain injury, adding an average of 6.9 days to a hospital stay.

Consider that the average cost of a fall-related injury in hospitals was $14,000 in 2011, and that those costs are no longer reimbursable under Medicare. Plus, in order to achieve Magnet designation, a hospital’s patient fall rate must be consistently below the national average. It’s no surprise that hospital leaders see an urgent need to reduce patient falls.
The problem is, they don’t always know where to start.

SOURCE: Fall T.I.P.S.

<https://www.falltips.org/about-fall-tips/>

**What is a Magnet Destination?**

1. Magnet designation is the gold standard in nursing

The Magnet Recognition Program was developed by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to recognize health care organizations that provide the best nursing care. Achieving Magnet status is the highest international distinction for nursing excellence and provides patients with the ultimate benchmark for measuring quality of care.

ANCC studies have demonstrated that Magnet-recognized hospitals typically provide a higher quality of patient care, including lower mortality rates and better patient satisfaction. Magnet hospitals have lower turnover and less burnout among nursing staff. And, as in Porter’s case, the recognition is directly linked to a hospital's ability to attract and retain qualified, highly educated nursing leaders and staff.

SOURCE: MD Anderson Center

<https://www.mdanderson.org/cancerwise/what-does-a-nursing-magnet-designation-mean.h00-159385890.html>