

X Healthcare: How to Respond to a Patient Fall

Policy Number 11

Purpose

This document outlines the procedure for responding to a patient fall within X Healthcare facilities. It aims to ensure patient safety and provide clear guidelines for staff in the event of a fall.

Procedure

1. Immediate Response:

- If you witness a patient fall, immediately go to the patient.
- Assess the immediate safety of the patient and the environment.
- If the environment is unsafe, remove the patient and yourself to a safe location.

2. Check for Injuries:

- Determine if the patient is conscious and responsive.
- Look for visible injuries such as bleeding, fractures, or head trauma.
- Ask the patient about pain or discomfort.

3. Do Not Move the Patient:

- Unless there is an immediate danger, do not attempt to move the patient until a qualified medical professional arrives.
- Moving the patient could worsen any potential injuries.

4. Call for Assistance:

- Immediately call for medical assistance using the designated emergency number or code for your facility.
- Clearly state that a patient fall has occurred and provide the location.

5. Provide Comfort and Reassurance:

- Stay with the patient and offer comfort and reassurance until medical assistance arrives.
- Speak calmly and gently, explaining that help is on the way.

6. Medical Assessment:

- Once medical professionals arrive, provide them with all observed details of the fall, including the patient's condition, any visible injuries, and the circumstances surrounding the fall.

7. Documentation:

- Following the incident, thoroughly document the fall in the patient's medical record and complete an incident report.
- Include the time of the fall, location, patient's condition before and after the fall, any injuries sustained, actions taken, and the names of those involved.

Reporting

- All patient falls, regardless of apparent injury, must be reported to the nursing supervisor and documented in the patient's chart.
- An incident report must be completed and submitted within 24 hours of the fall.

Post-Fall Care

- The patient must be monitored closely following the fall for any delayed signs of injury.
- Follow any orders given by the physician or other qualified medical professionals.
- Ensure that measures are put in place to prevent future falls.

Prevention

- Conduct regular patient risk assessments for falls.
- Implement fall prevention strategies based on individual patient risk factors.
- Ensure the environment is safe and clear of hazards.
- Educate patients and families about fall prevention.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed and updated annually, or as needed based on incident reviews and best practices.

Contact Information

For further questions or clarifications, please contact the Risk Management Department at [Phone Number] or [Email Address].