

Patient Fall Prevention and Injury Prevention – All Areas POLICY

Summary of Changes

	NEW	Previous
All Sites		
BC Cancer		BCCA Patient Falls Prevention Policy
BCCDC		
BCEHS		
BCMHSUS		
C&W		
Program/Service		

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Patient Fall Prevention and Injury Prevention POLICY

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Increase employee, physician, researcher, student and volunteer awareness of their responsibility to patients who are at risk of falling in any BC Cancer work or public area.
- Identify BC Cancer patients who are at risk of falling
- Reduce the number of BC Cancer patient falls
- Reduce the risk of BC Cancer patient harm resulting from falls

1.2 Scope

This policy is intended to apply to all BC Cancer employees, managers, physicians, other healthcare professionals, researchers, contractors (i.e. security, housekeeping, food services (*contract companies will be expected to have their own policies in place as per legislation*), students, and volunteers.

2. Policy

2.1

BC Cancer is committed to providing a safe environment for patients, their family and visitors. All employees have a role in preventing falls within public and work areas of the BC Cancer environment:

All BC Cancer patients (Inpatient and Outpatient) will be screened and assessed to identify Falls Risks.

2.2

All patients are at risk for falls however, oncology patients are at higher risk. Evidence reveals that:

- 1 in 3 adults over the age of 65 falls at least once per year. *Boyle(2012)*
- Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths in adults aged 65 and older. *Government of Canada(2017)*

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- 50% of adults with advanced cancer, regardless of age will experience a fall associated with high risk of physical injury. *Kuriya et al (2015), Spoelstra et al (2013), Stone et al (2012), Wildes et al (2015)*
- Cancer patients, particularly during chemotherapy, often encounter functional status limitations. *Niederer, Schmidt, Vogt et al (2014)*

3. Responsibilities and Compliance

3.1 Responsibilities

Falls Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility

All BC Cancer personnel are responsible for appropriately using Patient Falls Prevention Procedures outlined within the BC Cancer Falls Prevention Learning Hub Module and the BC Cancer Inpatient and Outpatient Falls Prevention Procedures to enhance patient safety.

All employees have a role in preventing falls by following Universal Falls Precautions (**SAFE**) within public and work areas of the BC Cancer environment:

Universal Falls Precautions (SAFE)	
All BC Cancer employees and physicians will use Universal Falls Precautions (SAFE) when interacting with patients, unless a Falls Alert and more specific interventions are noted in the patient's record:	
S	Safe Environment: Ensure areas are obstacle free, report hazards (e.g. wet floor, loose mats)
A	Assist with Mobility: Ensure patient use of mobility devices. Walk beside, not ahead, of patient
F	Fall Risk Reduction: Observe for and document difficulty/changes in patient mobility
E	Engage Patient and Family: Encourage patient to ask for assistance

3.2 Compliance

BC Cancer employees are required to complete the BC Cancer Falls Prevention Learning Hub Module upon commencement of employment.

BC Cancer reviews the number of patient falls per year with a team of leaders from all centres to ensure the policy and procedures are up to date and used consistently.

4. Related Documents

BC Cancer Falls Prevention Pamphlet

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Learning Hub Education Module “BC Cancer Falls Prevention”

BC Cancer Patient Falls Prevention Inpatient Procedure

BC Cancer Patient Falls Prevention Outpatient Procedure

5. Definitions

- Fall: an event whereby an individual comes to rest on the ground or another level with or without loss of consciousness.

6. References

BC Falls and Injury Prevention Coalition.

2017 <http://findingbalancebc.ca/>

BC Falls Prevention Environmental Scan. PHSA 2017

Canadian Patient Safety Institute.

2014 <http://www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca/en/topic/pages/falls.aspx>

Do Older Adults With Cancer Fall More Often? Spoelstra, Given, Schutte, et al.

2013 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23448747>

Falls in Older Adults With Cancer: A Call to Action. Boyle,

2012. <http://www.cancernetwork.com/oncology-nursing/falls-older-adults-cancer-call-action>

Frequency and factors associated with falls in patients with advanced cancer presenting to an outpatient supportive care clinic. Kuriya, Yennurajalingam, de la Cruz, et al. 2015

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24524647>

Functional capacity and fear of falling in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. Niederer, Schmidt, Vogt, et al. 2014. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24360638>

Prospective study of falls and risk factors for falls in adults with advanced cancer. Stone, Lawlor, Savva et al. 2013. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22585687>

Seniors Falls in Canada - Second Report. Government of Canada. 2014

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<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/aging-seniors/publications/publications-general-public/seniors-falls-canada-second-report.html>

Systematic review of falls in older adults with cancer. Wildes, Duab, Fowler, et al.
2015. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25454770>

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First Issued:	25-05-2009		
Approving Body:	BC Cancer Quality Council		
Final Sign Off:	Name	Title	Date Signed
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Posted Date:	31-Jan-2018		
Version:	3		
Revision:	Name of Reviser	Description	Date
	Sue Fuller Blamey	Patient Falls Prevention Policy	20-11-2012
	Sue Fuller Blamey	Patient Falls Prevention Policy	31-01-2018

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