

Standardized Fall Assessment Tools

Alice Palmer

Old Dominion University

Coppedge, N., Conner, K., & Se, S. (2016). Using a standardized fall prevention tool decreases fall rates. *Nursing*, 46(3), 64-67.

<https://doi.org/10.1097/01.NURSE.0000480616.85167.05>

This article is written by patient care specialists and a clinical nurse specialist who work for a non profit community hospital conducting post-fall analyses to determine causation factors. Conducting these post-fall analyses has given insight into precautions and measures that can be taken in order to prevent falls. Lack of communication between health care professionals was found to be an issue when it came to fall prevention. A standardized fall prevention tool was established and piloted within the facility. This tool was placed in patient rooms. A yellow color was used to draw attention to the tool by all healthcare professionals who interacted with the patient. The tool also provided family members with a map of when to and when not to help their family member out of the bed or chair. The fall rates of the units that where this tool was piloted decreased. Proving this tool's effectiveness.

I would recommend this article to other healthcare professionals because it demonstrates how powerful these fall interventions are. It also gives explanations on how implementation can affect the desired outcomes. I do not believe there are assumptions or bias comments made by the authors in this article. The content in this article can be practically applied to nursing because it directly relates to patient care. Explaining the intervention and its purpose to the patients and their families is part of the nursing role. Also, as nurses we often deal with patients who are high fall risk and require specific interventions to be in place during their stay in the facility. Reading this article has provided me with insight into the fall precautions in place and the methods used to evaluate the effectiveness of these interventions.

Honor Code:

“I pledge to support the Honor System of Old Dominion University. I will refrain from any form of academic dishonesty or deception, such as cheating or plagiarism. I am aware that as a member of the academic community, it is my responsibility to turn in all suspected violators of the Honor Code. I will report to a hearing if summoned.” - Alice Palmer