

FALLS ALGORITHM

Five stages of managing an inpatient fall

1 HOUR

STAGE 1

- ✓ Assess patient on floor for any obvious injury
- ✓ Check vital signs/GCS-neurological observations
- ✓ Check for signs & symptoms of injury/ fracture
- ✓ Call patients medical team/doctor
- ✓ Use safe manual handling when moving patient from the floor

STAGE 2

- ✓ Identify patient as a Falls Risk on whiteboard
- ✓ Complete clinical incident form
- ✓ Place falls risk information at patients bed
- ✓ Inform patients next of kin
- ✓ Commence falls care plan & reassess FRAT score
- ✓ Record details of the fall on the Safety Cross

STAGE 3

NOTIFY PATIENT'S TEAM ABOUT THE FALL & PLACE ORANGE FALLS STICKER IN THE CLINICAL NOTES

Refer to fracture liaison service if patient is over 50 and sustained a fracture post-fall

STAGE 4

Consider investigating the following as the cause of the fall:

Environmental causes

- Remove risk
- Consider moving patient to a different bed space

Medical Reasons

- Low BP • Medication
- Confusion • Poor Vision
- Poor Hearing

- Consider medical review
- Consider pharmacist review of medications
- Ophthalmology review
- ENT review

PolyPharmacy

- Consider medical review
- Consider pharmacist review medications

Unsteady gait

- Request physiotherapy review
- If reduced function consider occupational therapy review

24 - 48 HOURS

STAGE 5

Upon discharge letter to be sent to GP detailing falls history

DISCHARGE