

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) supports reporting and learning from patient safety events. The focus of a patient safety review is to closely look at the health care system that surrounds and interacts with those giving and receiving care. The goal is to identify risks to patient safety and recommend the most effective ways to minimize risk and improve the delivery of healthcare.

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Unwitnessed Fall Resulting in Fracture

Summary:

A patient, recently discharged from hospital, presented to the emergency department multiple times with concerns over living conditions and the risk of falling at home. Patient was admitted to the hospital for observation with a diagnosis of failure to cope and query dementia.

Patient experienced an unwitnessed fall resulting in a hip fracture (left femoral neck). Patient was sent to a larger centre for orthopedic surgery and was later returned to the local hospital.

Patient recovered well and was later discharged and admitted to a long-term care facility.

Keywords:

Fall, Fracture

This review is based on a single event

Findings of the Review:

The fall risk assessment was not completed on admission as per policy.

Documentation was not sufficient; the post fall documentation was missing from the health record and there was no documentation to support that the physician was made aware of fall.

System Learning:

Encourage unit staff to complete the new fall management learning module to foster education of the existing Falls Risk Management Policy

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