

Manitoba Health, Healthy Living & Seniors (MHLS) 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

Improper Footwear results in Changes to Falls Prevention Management

Summary:

An elderly client had an unwitnessed fall in the bathroom. The client sustained a soft tissue injury to the head.

Three days later, the client had a second unwitnessed fall while mobilizing in non-treaded socks. This second fall resulted in a fractured hip and a fractured radius.

Keywords: elderly fall, non-treaded socks

Device Name (if applicable):

Drug/Name/Fluid Name: (if applicable):

Type of Analysis: single event

Topic: Falls

Findings of the Review:

The Falls Re-Assessment Tool (FRAT) score was incomplete at the time of the initial fall. As a result, the client was at higher risk of falling than believed. environmental assessment and fall prevention interventions were not instituted.

The client had suffered a recent decline in their vision, appetite, mobility and cognitive function. this knowledge did not result in a change in the client's plan of care.

At the time of the fall, the client was wearing non-treaded socks. These may have contributed to the fall.

System Learning:

Treaded socks or proper fitting footwear would reduce fall risk among ambulating clients. Non-treaded socks increase fall risk.

Collaborate as a team to share client's changing condition. Document in the client's chart and update the care plan to communicate between care providers implemented falls prevention initiatives. Mitigate risk of falls through a consistent approach to falls management and utilization of a pending updated falls prevention policy.

Date of Posting: October 2016