Population Health Overview

Every 11 seconds an older adult is treated in the emergency room for a fall and every 19 minutes an older adult will die because of a fall (Collins & Casey, 2019).

Falls are the leading cause of injuries among older adults and cost more than $31 billion in Medicare costs. (Centers for Disease Control, 2017)

Older patients who fall experience a readmission rate of 44% within that next year and mortality rate of 33%. (Ayoung, McIntyre, Del Mèo, Macaluso, & Maier, 2014)

Falls represent a high claims cost for NorthShore (31%)

Prior to Project Implementation

55% of all falls in the Glenbrook ED: high percentage of patients 65 and older

ED Fall Rate increased 10%, an increase in 2017

Fall risk assessment is a Joint Commission requirement

During COVID

We consistently fail to identify injuries in the elderly who fall

Organizational Assessment

• Glenbrook ED: high percentage of patients 65 and older
• Fall risk assessment is a Joint Commission requirement
• ED Fall Rate increased 10%, an increase in 2017-2018
• Falls represent a high claims cost for NorthShore
• We consistently fail to identify injuries in the elderly who fall

Evidence Based Initiative

Schmid Fall Risk Assessment Fall Risk Factors:
- (93% sensitivity, 78% specificity; Inter-rater reliability: 88%)
  - History of a fall
  - High risk medications
  - Altered mobility
  - Altered elimination
  - Altered mental status

These fall risk factors can be found in the majority of ED and Inpatient fall risk assessment tools and are supported with level II, level III evidence.

Hourly rounding, Patient and family teaching, EMR visual alert cue

Evaluation Criteria

80% Completion rate with Develop-U education / PCT Education
80% Completion rate of Schmid scale at triage
80% Compliance with PCT documentation of hourly rounding
80% Compliance with Schmid scale after high-risk medications
80% Utilization of geriatric smart text

Outcomes

Staff Fall Risk Education Prior to Project Implementation

On-line Education 92%
PCT Education 92%

Context

ED window to the community


Recommendations

Thoughtful placement of fall risk assessment tool in the ED workflow: Front line input is essential

Schmid Fall Risk Scale: reliable, valid but does not incorporate 2019 Beers criteria (American Geriatric Society, 2019)

Wide angle lens in attempting to address fall risk in the ED 65 and older? Fastest growing segment of the population EDs are not yet prepared (Wolf, 2019)

Projects that involve Information Technology (IT) always take more time than you realize

References


