



KEY POINT SUMMARY

OBJECTIVES

This study explores different psychiatric unit directors' perceptions regarding the variables that contribute to patient falls.

DESIGN IMPLICATIONS

While wall-mounted grab bars are important for reducing patient falls, adequate footwear should also be readily available. Padding on certain corners and edges should be considered within areas that pose high risks for patient falls.

Managing patient falls in psychiatric inpatient units: Part 1

Abraham, S. 2016 | *The Health Care Manager* Volume 35, Issue 1, Pages 21-27

Key Concepts/Context

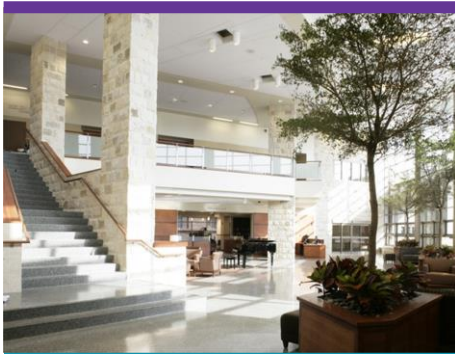
A significantly higher number of patient falls occur in hospital inpatient psychiatric units than in medical-surgical areas, resulting in issues with overall patient safety. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers patient falls a concern to society due to the safety issues they pose and financial strains they can cause for institutions.

Methods

Program directors, nurse managers, supervisors, and administrators with various managerial roles from 60 different psychiatric units were interviewed. Twenty-two questions were posed to all participants asking what they believed were the intrinsic and extrinsic factors that contributed to patient falls within inpatient psychiatric units, as well as questions regarding staff training and safety equipment.

Findings

Survey responses indicated that participants generally agreed that the intrinsic factors contributing the most to patient falls were having fallen in the past, taking multiple psychotropic medications, and having an unsteady gait. Participants indicated that extrinsic factors that helped decrease the number of patient falls were physical therapy evaluations, scheduled toileting, adequate staffing levels, and multidisciplinary team support. Overall, participants believed that intrinsic factors were more strongly related to the likelihood of patient falls than extrinsic factors. For staff training, participants agreed that current staff should undergo recurrent training and education regarding patient falls, and for safety equipment, participants agreed that issues with adequate footwear posed more risk than the absence of wall-mounted grab bars.



The Center for Health Design:
Moving Healthcare Forward

The Center for Health Design advances best practices and empowers healthcare leaders with quality research that demonstrates the value of design to improve health outcomes, patient experience of care, and provider/staff satisfaction and performance.

Learn more at www.healthdesign.org

Limitations

Participants were limited to 22 questions that focused on specific research themes of predetermined intrinsic and extrinsic factors. Each survey question was limited to five possible responses, eliminating the possibility of elaboration by the participants.

The Knowledge Repository is provided with the funding support of:



Additional key point summaries provided by:

