

TITLE**FALLS RISK MANAGEMENT****SCOPE**

Provincial

APPROVAL LEVEL

Alberta Health Services Executive Leadership Team

SPONSORSenior Program Officer
Community, Seniors, Addiction & Mental Health**CATEGORY**

Patient Safety

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NA

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March 23, 2018

NOTE: The first appearance of terms in bold in the body of this document (except titles) are defined terms - please refer to the Definitions section.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the information in this policy, please contact the Policy & Forms Department at policy@albertahealthservices.ca. The Policy & Forms website is the official source of current approved policies, procedures, directives, and practice support documents.

PURPOSE

- To ensure all **Alberta Health Services settings** adopt and implement an appropriate **Falls Risk Management** strategy aimed at reducing frequency of falls and falls related injuries, and improving the:
 - Ability to identify patients/populations at risk for falls;
 - Ability to address the specific needs of the patients/populations identified at risk for falls;
 - Ability to collect and analyze falls related data; and
 - Ability to use falls related data to make improvements to the falls risk management strategy.

POLICY STATEMENT

- The Falls Risk Management policy reinforces Alberta Health Services philosophy and commitment to improve **patient** safety.
- Alberta Health Services acknowledges that despite best efforts to provide safe, quality care, patients may fall resulting in injury.

- Falls prevention and risk management strategies will be executed across the continuum of health services.
- Alberta Health Services Programs shall develop and implement falls risk management strategies that reflect the characteristics of the patients/populations they serve.

APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this policy is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary). This policy does not limit any legal rights to which you may otherwise be entitled.

POLICY ELEMENTS

1. Prevention

- 1.1 Evidence informed prevention activities chosen from the tool kit will be incorporated into all falls risk management strategies and applied to all populations.

2. Screening and assessment

- 2.1 Programs/services will use interdisciplinary evidence informed screening and assessment tools to identify the patients at risk (screening) and determine their specific individual risk factors and needs (assessment).
- 2.2 Risk and needs assessments of individuals will be conducted by those with the appropriate skills and knowledge.

3. Intervention

- 3.1 Level of interventions will depend on the patient/population's assessed risk level, identified risk factors and individual needs. Multifactorial interventions (falls prevention and falls risk management) will be used to address risk factors and needs.

4. Data collection and measurement

- 4.1 Falls Risk Management strategies will include the collection and measurement of data related to falls. This data will provide understanding of the common and unique contributions to falls risk, falls events and the implemented falls risk management strategies.

5. Evaluation

- 5.1 Standardized definitions, collection, reporting, analysis, and trending of falls event data allow for continuous examination of falls risk management strategies. Evaluation and learning will be shared across the program/service areas.

6. Practice improvement

- 6.1 Data related to falls will be evaluated and the evaluation information will be used to make improvements to falls risk management strategies.
- 6.2 Practice improvement strategies, including but not limited to education, may be developed to support practice changes.
- 6.3 Of importance is the development of processes, an understanding of roles and responsibilities, and communication planning within each program area.

DEFINITIONS

Alberta Health Services setting means any environment where treatment/procedures and other health-care services are delivered by, on behalf of or in conjunction with Alberta Health Services.

Fall means unintentionally coming to rest on the ground, floor or other lower level with or without an injury.

Patient means an adult or child who receives or has requested health care or services from Alberta Health Services and its health services providers or individuals authorized to act on behalf of Alberta Health Services. This term is inclusive of residents, clients and outpatients.

REFERENCES

- Alberta Health Services Falls Risk Management Insite Webpage

REVISIONS

None