

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

Humeral Head Fracture

Summary:

A resident with a history of right sided weakness and dementia sustained a right humeral head fracture. The mechanism of injury was not known.

Keywords: Fracture, Mechanical Lift, Sling

This review is based on a single event.

Findings of the Review:

The absence of a standardized mobility assessment tool increased the risk for incorrect type of mechanical lift used. A sit stand lift was utilized and was not the recommended lift for this client.

Correct procedures for safe application of the sling was not utilized. The sling was positioned above the chest level rather than at the trunk level.

Inconsistent safety practices when using the mechanical lift increased the risk of harm. The resident remained attached to the sling and mechanical lift and was left unattended on the toilet.

System Learning:

Complete development of the Safe Client Handling Program including:

- An evidence based client mobility assessment tool that is utilized by staff providing assessments for transfers
- Safe Work Procedures for application of slings and operation of mechanical lifts.

Implement and provide education for the Safe Client Handling Program upon completion.

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