

SATANTA DISTRICT HOSPITAL

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LONG TERM CARE UNIT

Fall Prevention Assessment



Assessment Components

- Every admission every time
- What do we really mean when we say “assessment?”
 - The evaluation or estimation of the nature, quality, or ability of someone or something.
 - Very individualized process.



Assessment Components

- History
- Cognitive
- Balance
- Mobility
- Neurologic Problems
- Musculoskeletal Problems
- Nutrition
- Disease processes that may impact recovery or loss of function.
- Medications that may predispose the patient to a fall.

Assessment Components

– Medication Assessment: Involvement of the Pharmacist. Formulary that will exclude certain medications such as hypnotics.

- Antiarrhythmic
- Antidepressants
- Antihypertensives
- Diuretics
- Hypoglycemics
- Sedatives/hypnotics
- Psychotropics
- Anticoagulants
- Narcotics

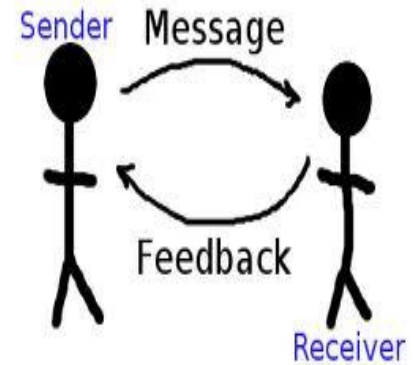


Assessment Components

- Physical Assessment/Involvement of Physical Therapist in the assessment of:
 - Muscle strength/weakness
 - Balance
 - Gait
 - Assistive devices
 - Physical Therapy Evaluation for suggestions of how best to help this patient ambulate safely and keep their strength
 - Environment; room arrangement; lighting; thresholds; doors.

Communication

- How well does the patient communicate his/her needs
 - Staff interaction with the patient
 - Staff interaction with the family/caregiver
 - Devices for good communication:
 - White boards
 - Staff to staff: team huddles, safety huddles, post fall huddles
 - Patient to staff: scripting for the staff so the patient is given permission to ask for what they might need (bathroom)
 - Staff to patient: Teaching and accessibility



Communication

- Involvement of the family/caregiver in prevention of falls and especially falls with the potential for serious injury. (bedside report)
- Incorporate the pertinent information shared in the report into the care plan and educate other staff members regarding the new information.
- Physician involvement. Physicians are invested in keeping their patient's safe and are a very important part of the assessment process. We involve our physicians in all aspects of the patient's care. This involvement is imperative in the prevention of falls and all additional harms.

