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Advances in Protecting Patients from
Fall Injury:
VHA Innovation Community

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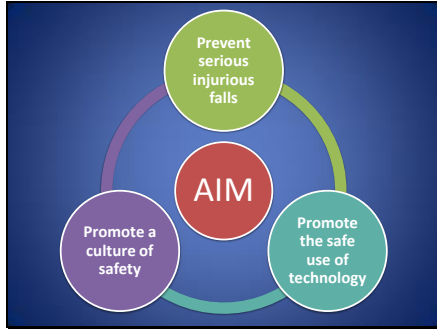
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VHA – NCPS – VISN 8

FOCI: Preventing Injurious Falls
Preventing Adverse Events Associated
with Wandering

MISSION: To support clinicians in providing safe
patient care by designing and testing
safety defenses related to the patient,
provider, technology, and organization.

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Must Read!

Clinics in Geriatric Medicine
Nov. 2010

Clinical Nursing Research, An International Journal
21(1) Feb. 2012
Special Issue:
Falls in the Older Adult

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Best Practice Approach in Hospitals

- Implementation of safer environment of care for the whole patient cohort (flooring, lighting, observation, threats to mobilizing, signposting, personal aids and possessions, furniture, footwear)
- Identification of specific modifiable fall risk factors
- Implementation of interventions targeting those risk factors so as to prevent falls
- Interventions to reduce risk of injury to those people who do fall

(Oliver, et al., 2010, p. 685)

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Types of Falls

- Until Organizations Know Types of Falls occurring, they cannot know the effectiveness of your program.
- Types of falls are:
 - Accidental
 - Anticipated Physiological
 - Unanticipated Physiological(Morse, J. 1997. Preventing patient falls. Sage publication.)
- Intentional Falls
- Failure to Link Assessment with Intervention

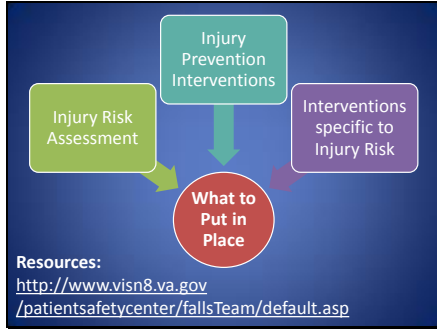
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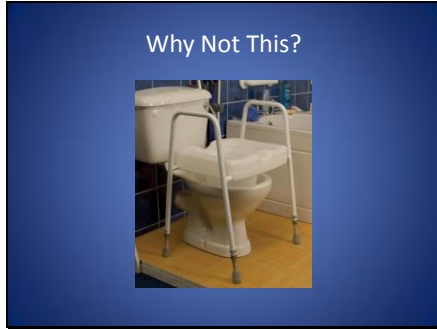


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Creating Safe Environment

Reduce Blunt Force Trauma
Try to eliminate sharp edges
Decrease impact from falls
Ensure Safe Bathrooms! Why?

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Eliminate Sharp Edges

- KidCo
- KidSafe

Search:

- Furniture


Corner Cushions



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Shower Rooms

- Grab Bars
- Liquid soap vs. bar soap
- Plenty of towels available
- Grit on floors vs. floor mats
- Shower chairs in working order/wheels lock?
Right size?
- Does water drain off quickly?



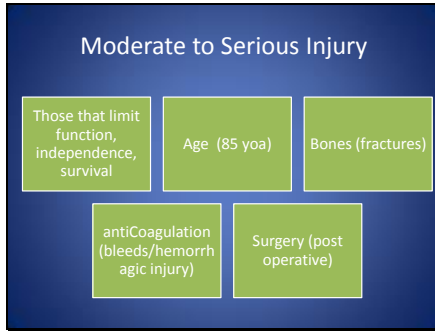
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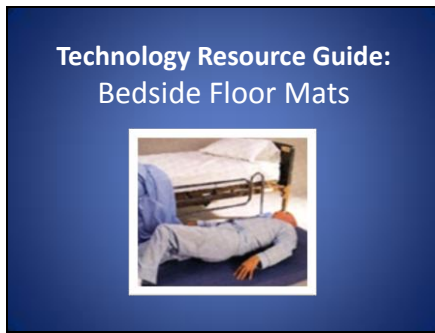
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**Hip Protector
Toolkit
Resource**

<http://www.visn8.va.gov/patientsafetycenter/fallsTeam/default.asp>

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Hip Protectors



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Best Practice:
Patient Education Video
Osteoporosis in Men

This 15 minute video is targeted for men with osteoporosis, addressing myths, diagnosis, treatment, and healthy living for prevention of osteoporosis in men.

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