Data collected through monthly audits of scoring and interventions, discussion in the Fall Committee and Fall Champion meetings, and investigations into falls indicated that many falls were under-scored. This led to a number of high-risk interventions not being implemented. For a better understanding of the challenges regarding accurate scoring, falls were audited for the entire month of December 2018. Inter-rater reliability tests were performed on a total of 89 falls throughout the Houston Methodist system.

Out of 89 falls, 45 were scored lower than necessary. The top areas that were incorrectly scored included medications and volume/electrolyte status. The scoring inaccuracy in these areas also led to missed interventions to prevent falls.

Results of the December 2018 fall audits were discussed at the Fall Committee and Fall Champions meetings. Targeted education was developed and implemented at the unit level, with a focus on medications and volume/electrolyte status. The data dictionary in our EMR was updated using the associated fall prevention tool glossary with a focus on these two areas.

**Methods:**
- Data collected through monthly audits of scoring and interventions, discussion in the Fall Committee and Fall Champion meetings, and investigations into falls indicated that many falls were under-scored. This led to a number of high-risk interventions not being implemented.
- For a better understanding of the challenges regarding accurate scoring, falls were audited for the entire month of December 2018. Inter-rater reliability tests were performed on a total of 89 falls throughout the Houston Methodist system.
- Out of 89 falls, 45 were scored lower than necessary. The top areas that were incorrectly scored included medications and volume/electrolyte status. The scoring inaccuracy in these areas also led to missed interventions to prevent falls.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Identify the methods used to determine if patients are being accurately assessed for fall risk
- Compare and contrast the importance of targeted interventions in reducing falls with injury
Having evidence-based tools and support guiding clinical care was key to our success in improving outcomes across an already high performing healthcare system and providing "unparalleled" service to our patients. Providing one on one “Just in Time” training on use of the tools also assisted in setting the stage for accountability expectations for staff without requiring leaders to function in a punitive fashion. Hospital champions appreciated the coaching training to provide them with different understanding of how to coach a teammate – without impeding their collegial dynamics.

Summary:
- Having evidence-based tools and support guiding clinical care was key to our success in improving outcomes across an already high performing healthcare system and providing “unparalleled” service to our patients.
- Providing one on one “Just in Time” training on use of the tools also assisted in setting the stage for accountability expectations for staff without requiring leaders to function in a punitive fashion.
- Hospital champions appreciated the coaching training to provide them with different understanding of how to coach a teammate – without impeding their collegial dynamics.

Outcomes:
- In 2017, the baseline fall rate was 1.65.
- In 2018 the fall rare dropped to 1.54, representing a 7% decrease. This correlates to 109 patients that did not fall.
- In 2019, the fall rate dropped to 1.32, representing a 14% decrease. This correlates to 209 patients that did not fall.
- Overall, the decrease in falls over a two-year period was 20%. The total number of correlated patients who did not fall is 318.

Quick Facts:
Organization: Houston Methodist
Industry: Health Care
Location: Houston Texas
Hospital Locations: 10
Customer since: 1016
Employees: 8700
Certified beds: 2000
Solution: Falls Management
Website: www.houstonmethodist.org

Houston Methodist System Falls Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Lives Impacted</th>
<th>Patients that did not fall</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-Baseline</td>
<td>109 patients that did not fall</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-Year 1</td>
<td>209 patients that did not fall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-Year 2</td>
<td>209 patients that did not fall</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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