

Improving Fall Rates at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital

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BACKGROUND

- During hospitalization, falls occur at a rate of 3-5/1000 bed-days resulting in approximately 1 million falls per year
- Ascension target for fall rate is 2.76/1000 bed-days
- Currently, falls at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital (APRH) are occurring at a higher rate

Our goal is to partner with the Falls Committee at APRH to reduce fall rate and improve patient safety

METHODS

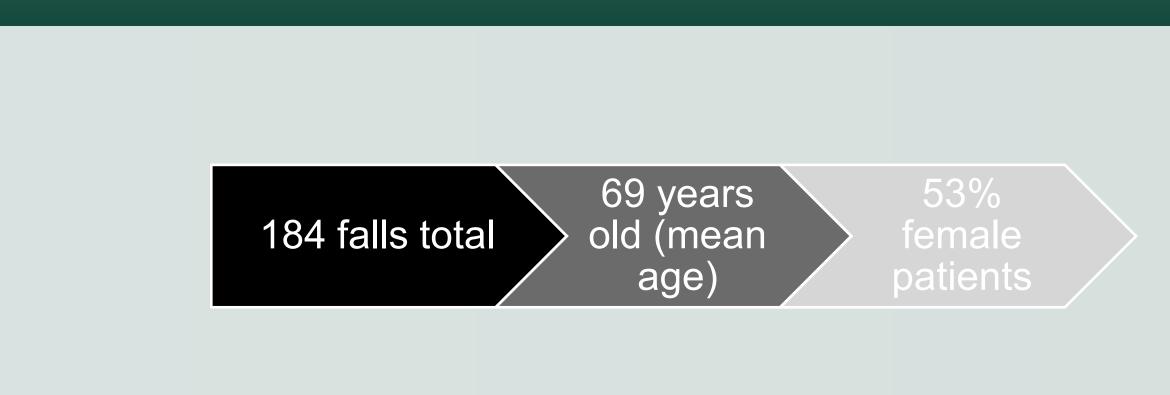
Phase 1: Comprehensive analysis of falls data from September 2019-September 2020

Record review included:

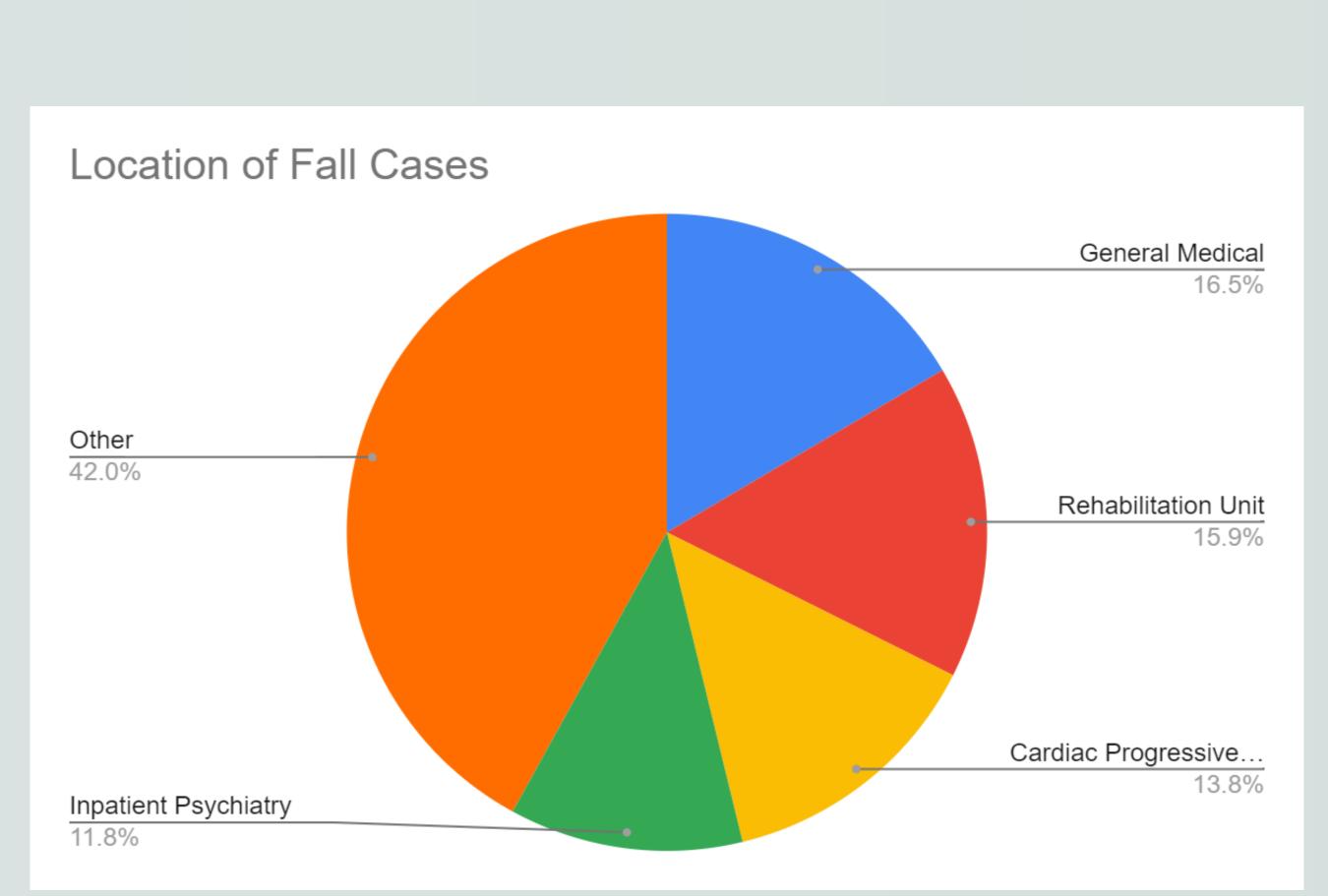
- 1. Date, time, location, age of person affected
- 2. If fall risk assessment and precautions were initiated
- 3. Whether bed alarms, chair alarms and call lights were properly engaged prior to falls

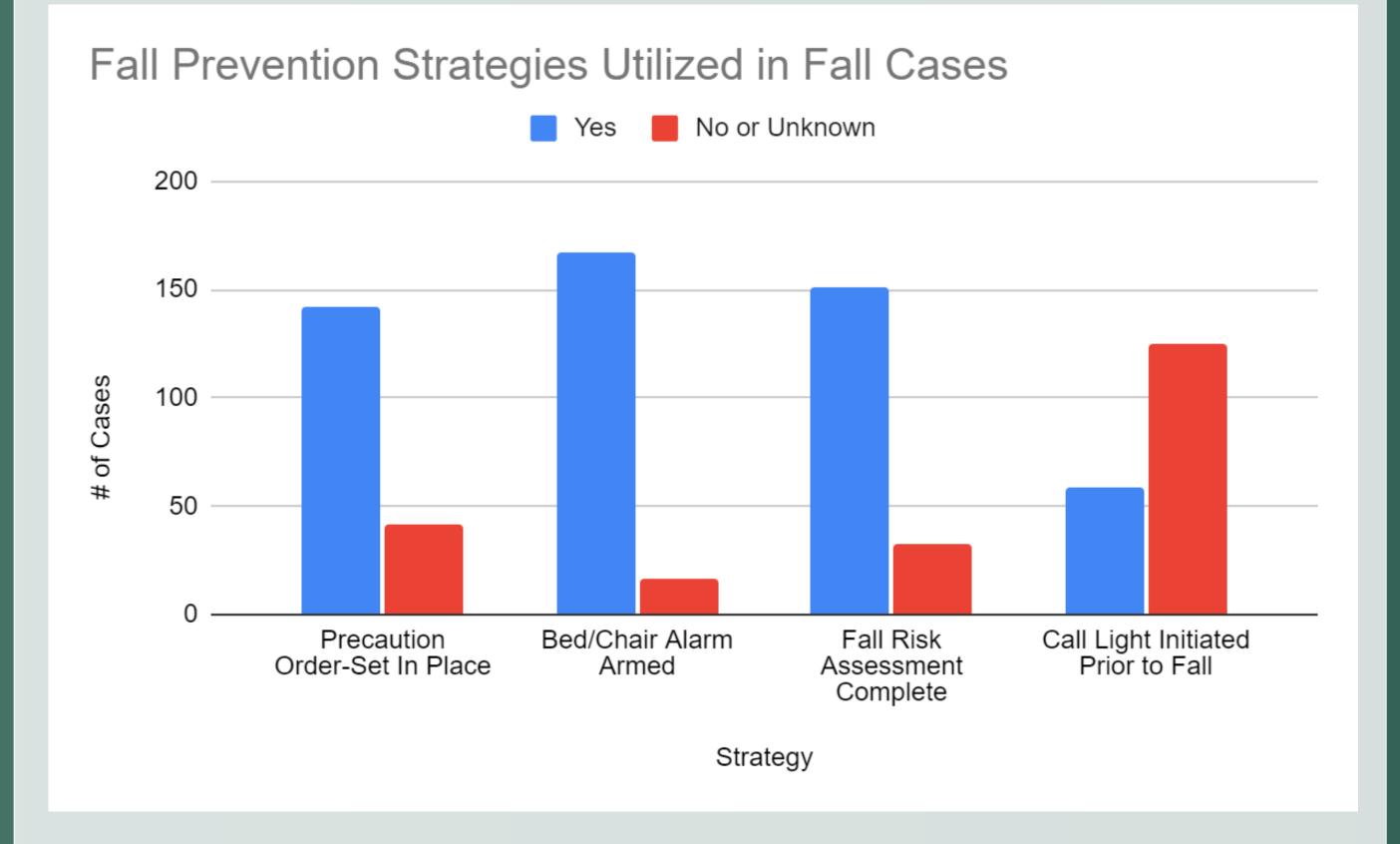


Figure 1. Falls reporting process at APRH



RESULTS





Fall order set included:

- Yellow wrist bands
- Grip socks
- Fall signs on doors
- Gait belt
- Bed/chair alarm
- Call light patient education

CONCLUSIONS

Based off our data analysis, areas of fall prevention that can be addressed are:

- 1. Improving documentation (i.e. whether call/bed alarms are engaged prior to falls).
- 2. Improving patient rates of activating call light.
- 3. Ensuring that every patient has a risk assessment completed.

Both measures are major targets for fall prevention that are possibly underutilized



FUTURE PLANS

Phase 2 of our initiative will focus on:

- 1. Attending daily safety huddle where every fall from the last 24 hours is reported
- 2. Clarifying documentation of:
 - I. Bed alarm
 - II. Chair alarm
 - III. Patient call light
- 3. Barriers to call light activation



PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Falls during hospitalization are associated with an increased likelihood of <u>longer</u> <u>hospitalization</u>, <u>nursing home placement</u>, <u>cost and use of medical services</u>. Our hope is that we can improve patient safety and reduce overall falls at APRH.