

## **PATIENT FALL PREVENTION PROTOCOL**

### **Fall Risk Level I Protocol**

Orient patient to surroundings

- The patient's chair should be easily accessible
- Provide assigned staff names to the patient
- Instruct to ask for assistance anytime needed
- Place ambulatory assistive devices within easy reach post treatment
- Patients using ambulatory assistive devices to be offered a wheelchair to enter and exit the treatment area.
- Encourage all ambulatory patients to use skid proof footwear
- All personnel will be responsible for eliminating environmental hazards
- Patient care staff will escort patient into and out of the treatment area

### **Fall Risk Level II Protocol**

All of Level One Plus:

- Instruct patient and/or family to ask for assistance for any patient relocation
- All items for patient use should be within easy reach
- Seek medication for diarrhea episodes, maintain clean walking surfaces
- Reassess for safe footwear
- Evaluate for assistive device needs, such as wheelchair, cane, walker
- Reinforce use of assistive devices, if used
- Wheelchair will be in a locked position unless attended
- Evaluate for restraint devices as needed, such as safety belts or restraint jacket
- Reassess for clutter-free, well-lit environment
- Educate transportation to verbally transfer care of patient to staff watch area

### **Fall Risk Level III Protocol**

All of level two, plus:

- Frequently reorient and repetitively reinforce need for patient care staff assistance
- Initiate high fall risk identification including: colored warning on patient clipboard
- Maintains observation of patient at all times
- Consider seat assignment in more visible area
- Assist patient with all activities
- Notify physician for medication review, if applicable
- Evaluate need for physical therapy, i.e. strength training and transfer alternatives
- If supportive device needed, apply to provide safety for patient/others; if these are inadequate may provide staff watch in addition to applying supportive device.
- If supportive device not appropriate to diagnosis/condition of patient, provide staff watch
- Use safety belts or jackets for Wheelchair and stretcher patients