

Laminated Paper Fall T.I.P.S.* PCA Guide.



Fall TIPS Workflow

- The Fall TIPS laminated poster is a tool to communicate a patient's fall risk factors and care team interventions to prevent a fall.
- PCAs are responsible for reinforcing the personalized fall prevention plan with the patient and reminding patients of their plan every day.
- Below are the 6 risk factors for falls that are a part of the Morse Fall Scale and the role of the PCA for how to prevent a fall.

1. History of Falling

Ask patient about previous falls.

Collaborate with nurse on using plan to prevent similar falls.



2. Secondary Diagnosis

Ask nurse if the patient requires frequent rounding/toileting due to symptoms of medical problems or medication side effects.

Use Fall TIPS poster to see how the patient toilets.



3. Ambulatory Aid

Make sure patients have their ambulatory aid when walking.

Remind patient about dangers of using furniture as an aid.



4. IV/Heparin Lock

Remind the patient that the IV will cause them to urinate more frequently and to call for help with toileting.

Conduct frequent rounding.

Assist the patient with their IV pole when getting out of bed.



5. Gait

Make sure patients have their ambulatory aid when walking.

Assist patients when walking as needed.



6. Mental Status

Make sure bed/chair alarm are turned on when leaving the room.

Do not leave patients in the bathroom unattended.

FAQ

1. What can I do if I notice the Fall TIPS poster has the wrong patient name or date?

Erase the Fall TIPS poster as patients are discharged. Remind the nurse that the date on the laminated posters must be updated daily. It must also be updated if there is a change in the patient's risks or interventions.

2. The Fall TIPS poster has "1-person assist" circled, but I know that my patient needs "2-person assist" out of bed. What should I do?

Notify the nurse that the intervention should be updated so that the patient, family, and other members of the care team are aware.

3. Should I point out the Fall TIPS posters to patients?

- Yes, evidence suggests patients are:
 - more likely to believe they are at risk for falls when engaged by their nurses and PCAs in reviewing their risk factors.
 - more likely to follow the plan if they are involved in developing it and if it is reinforced each day.

*Tailoring Interventions for Patient Safety

Have questions? Please email us at
PHSFallTIPS@partners.org

Fall T.I.P.S.* PCA Electronic Guide

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FAQ

1. What can I do if I notice the Fall TIPS poster has the wrong patient name or date?

Discard the Fall TIPS poster as patients are discharged. Signs do not need to be printed every day. Signs need to be printed upon admission and with a change in risk status or interventions. If the poster is not correct, ask the nurse to print a new sign.

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