



3rd Annual Quality & Patient Safety Conference Improving the Healthcare Journey for Patients & Staff



TITLE

Prevention of neonatal falls in the clinical areas

SUBMITTED BY

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

In-hospital postpartum neonatal falls pose a significant safety risk issue. A global incidence rate of neonatal falls range between 1.6 to 4.4 per 10,000 births. In Ireland, 65 number of incidents relating to newborn falls were reported on State Claims Agency from 2017 to 2019 inclusive. We have identified a number of risk factors that may contribute to neonatal falls and proposed preventative measures for same.

METHODOLOGY

A mixed methods approach was used. Retrospective statistical data and literature review findings were combined.

AIM

The aim of this patient safety initiative is to reduce the rate of neonatal falls in the hospital, by identifying risk factors and offering preventative measures for staff and parents.

CHANGE IMPLEMENTED

The identified risk factors were communicated to hospital management and staff members. Parental awareness was promoted from staff. A Patient Safety poster was created and distributed around the hospital. Side cots (which attach to the mothers bed) were purchased.

MEASUREMENT

We are measuring the number of neonatal falls reported to Clinical Risk Department through this year. We anticipate a reduction in neonatal falls compared to 2021 due to our additional measures.

RESULTS

Since the onset of this initiative, no neonatal falls has been reported to Clinical Risk Department. The hospital has purchased a number of side cots (which attach to the mothers bed) as an additional measure to reduce the risk of falls when a neonate is moved from/to cot. Ongoing monitoring and incident recording will continue through the year to ensure that the current reassuring findings will be maintained for the rest of the year.

VALUE

Preventing neonatal falls in the hospital setting has a significant impact in many areas. It promotes the well being of the neonates, reduces the stress that parents and staff experience during and after the event, and reduces the additional hospitalization/ interventions/cost needed to deal after a severe neonatal fall.

SUSTAINMENT

Our initial plan is to prove that the taken measures are effective, which will be achieved with a significant drop of the reported neonatal falls this year. Ongoing increase of staff awareness and parental training would sustain the expected improvement.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The findings and initiative were discussed with the RCSI group and we aim to spread the initiative to other hospitals