

Reducing Hospital Falls*

In July 2000, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization (JCAHO) issued a Sentinel Event Alert addressing the incidence and severity of patient falls. In 2000 the organization reported on a review of 22 cases related to fatal falls that occurred in 24-hour care settings. A root cause analysis was completed in follow-up to every reported fall. Thirteen of the cases occurred in hospitals with one occurring on a psychiatric unit. Six cases occurred in long term care facilities, one took place in a psychiatric facility, and two others occurred in non-hospital behavioral health care facilities.

The incidence of patient falls has not improved in relation to the publication of this Sentinel Event Alert. Reports of serious injuries and patient fatalities have continued and have gained the attention of patient safety advocates groups.

In response to the continuing incidence of severe patient falls JCAHO has added a new National Patient Safety Goal for 2005 to reduce the risk of patient harm resulting from falls. Compliance with this safety goal will be determined by whether the healthcare organization is assessing and periodically reassessing each patient's risk for falling, including the potential risk associated with the patient's medication regimen, and whether action is taken to address any identified risks. This Patient Safety Goal applies likewise to CJCAHO accredited Assisted Living facilities, Critical Access Hospitals, Long Term Care facilities and Home Care providers.

* This is an excerpt from an article written by Gwen Stokes, Director of Risk Management Services at McNeary, Inc.

The full article can be found at:
www.mcneary.com under Publications/Compass/
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The Staff of QM Data Solutions

Patient Falls Comparative Database

Are you interested in participating in a project that will provide comparative patient fall information? The plans are to use the information gathered to build "Best Practices" guidelines.

Please send an email to VNeal@QMData.com

**QMS™ is now being used
in facilities in 12 states!!**

**Welcome to the
NEW QMS™ Users!**

Stanly Regional Medical Center
Albemarle, NC

Springhill Medical Center
Springhill, LA

News about JCAHO and Hospital Quality Initiative

Highlights include:

- In 2005, data reports will be published for the consumer to review. Hospitals have an opportunity to review reports prior to publication.
- As of January 31, 2005, 116 hospitals submitted data for the Surgical Infection Prevention (SIP) core measure set. However, JCAHO has elected to not include any information of the SIP core measures in the display of Nation Quality Improvement Goals information in the Quality Report.



Frequently Asked Questions

<p>Question:</p>	<p>Can I use QMS™ to provide to the appropriate staff the list of privileges for practitioner on staff at our facility?</p>	<p>Answer:</p>	<p>Yes. In the Credentialing Module of QMS™, a view only access to the privilege list for the practitioners on staff at your facility can be given to the appropriate staff. Therefore, as soon as the list is updated, it is available to the staff without additional effort.</p>
<p>Question:</p>	<p>How do I track “peer review” activities within QMS™?</p>	<p>Answer:</p>	<p>“Peer review” indicators/monitors are given a code number and the practitioners are given code numbers. After the review of the practice has been completed, the results are entered as transactions into the Quality/Risk Assessment Module of QMS™.</p>

Don't forget to send us suggestions for QMS™ to QMS@QMDData.com

Visit our website at WWW.QMDATA.COM

THANK YOU!!

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