

Evaluating the Staff Compliance Regarding Fall Risk Assessment (FRA) Tools in a Cardiac Care Setting in Egypt

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Background:

The issue of falls is widely acknowledged as a significant concern for public health on a global scale. Whilst it is true that the elderly is disproportionately impacted by falls, it is important to acknowledge that the pediatric population is also highly vulnerable to this risk (Veronica Strini et al, 2021). Unintentional falls during hospitalization remain a concern for healthcare institutions globally despite the implementation of various improvement strategies.

In this sense, the occurrence of falls can be prevented through the implementation of Fall Risk Assessment (FRA) tools to identify the risk factors and implement preventative measures for falling. There are different types of tools used in both clinical and territorial settings such as the fall risk approach. Globally 1 in 5 patients experience falls which causes serious injuries (Donna Avanecean, et al 2019).

At Aswan Heart Centre (AHC), the FRA tool has been applied since 2021 for the purpose of reducing the number of fall incidents.

Aim and objectives:

To evaluate the compliance of the nursing staff in applying the recommended interventions of the FRA tool and spot any identifiable gaps.

Methods:

Participant observation has been conducted for the nursing staff while working with the patients and monitoring if they completely abide by the recommended interventions. Furthermore, interviews were conducted with the nursing staff to identify and correct the gaps that were discovered according to the observation process.

Result:

In a total number of observations (50 patients), the study revealed that there were 30% of the nursing staff, especially the newcomers (trainees), not completely compliant with the application of the tool. Subsequent to the interview results, the following gaps were identified: the nurses were not fully oriented by the tool, not being able to identify the purpose of the tool, and not being able to understand certain interventional points.

In order to fill in the gap, corrective actions were implemented. These actions included delivering a lecture explaining the tool and the adverse effects if not applied correctly, activating the preceptors' role (comprehensive monitoring, observing, and demonstrating), and conducting group discussions about the tool and its usage.

Following the corrective actions, observations were conducted once more over another 50 patients to confirm the improvement in staff compliance. It was found the staff is completely compliant to the tool application effectively.

Conclusion:

Even with applying FRA on a daily basis, the senior nursing staff needs to follow up and monitor in a comprehensive way the staff compliance on a frequent basis. Furthermore, serious corrective actions need to be applied to ensure staff compliance.

Keywords:

Fall, Assessment tool, Nursing Care, Patient Safety, MORSE, Falling