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Reducing Emergency Department Patient Falls through Ownership and Drills

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Reducing Emergency Department Patient Falls through Ownership and Drills

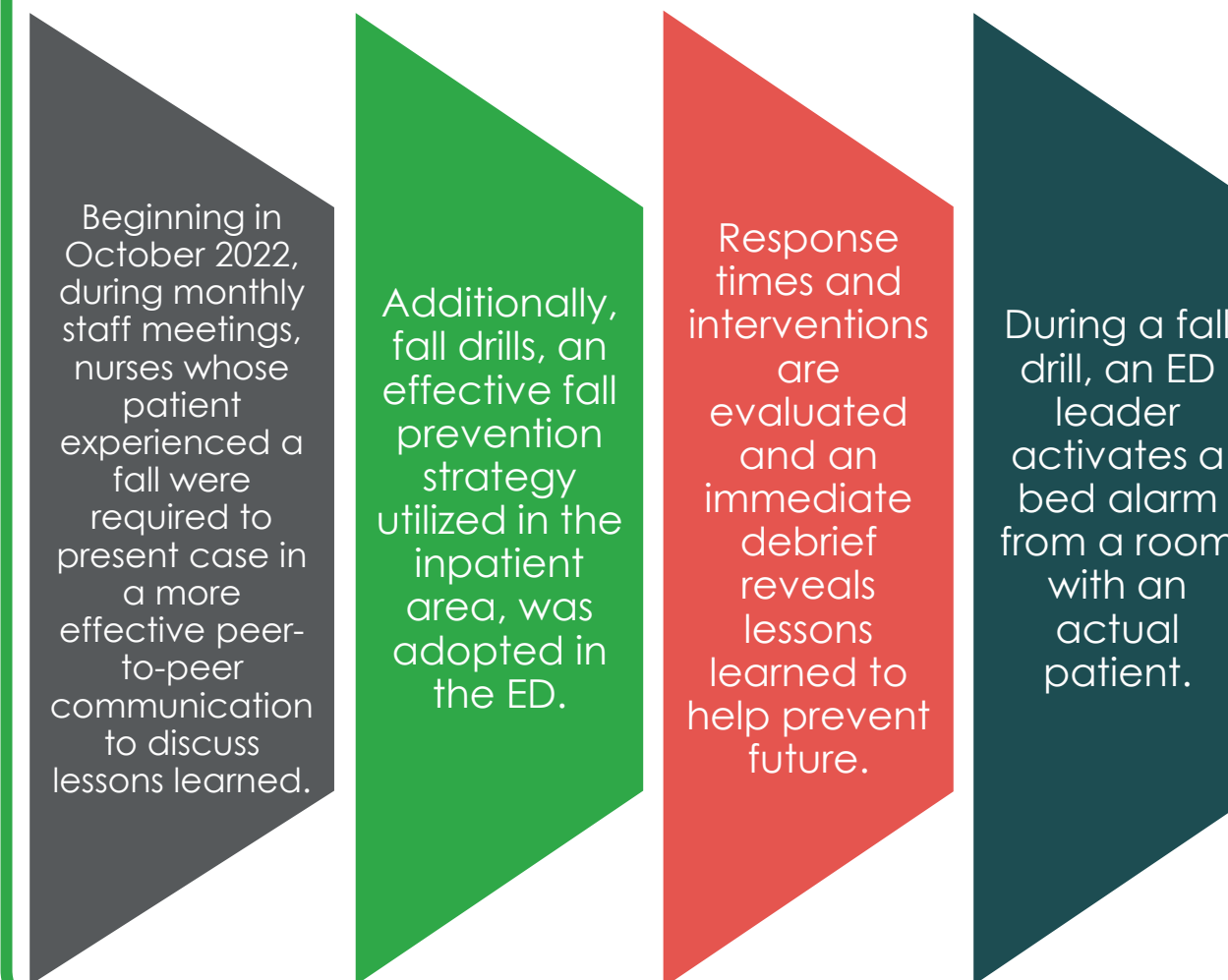
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Background/Significance

- Patient falls contribute to increased morbidity and length of stay.
- Emergency department (ED) patient falls are a patient safety concern because of frequently challenging patient care environment.
- Successful fall prevention programs require policies and resources; but engagement, knowledge, ownership, and commitment of staff and leadership sustain improvement.
- One acute care hospital ED identified upward trend in patient fall rate in latter half of 2021.
- Although upward trend leveled off, ED fall rate remained high in first half of 2022. ED leadership identified opportunity to reduce patient falls.

Methods



Implications/Discussion

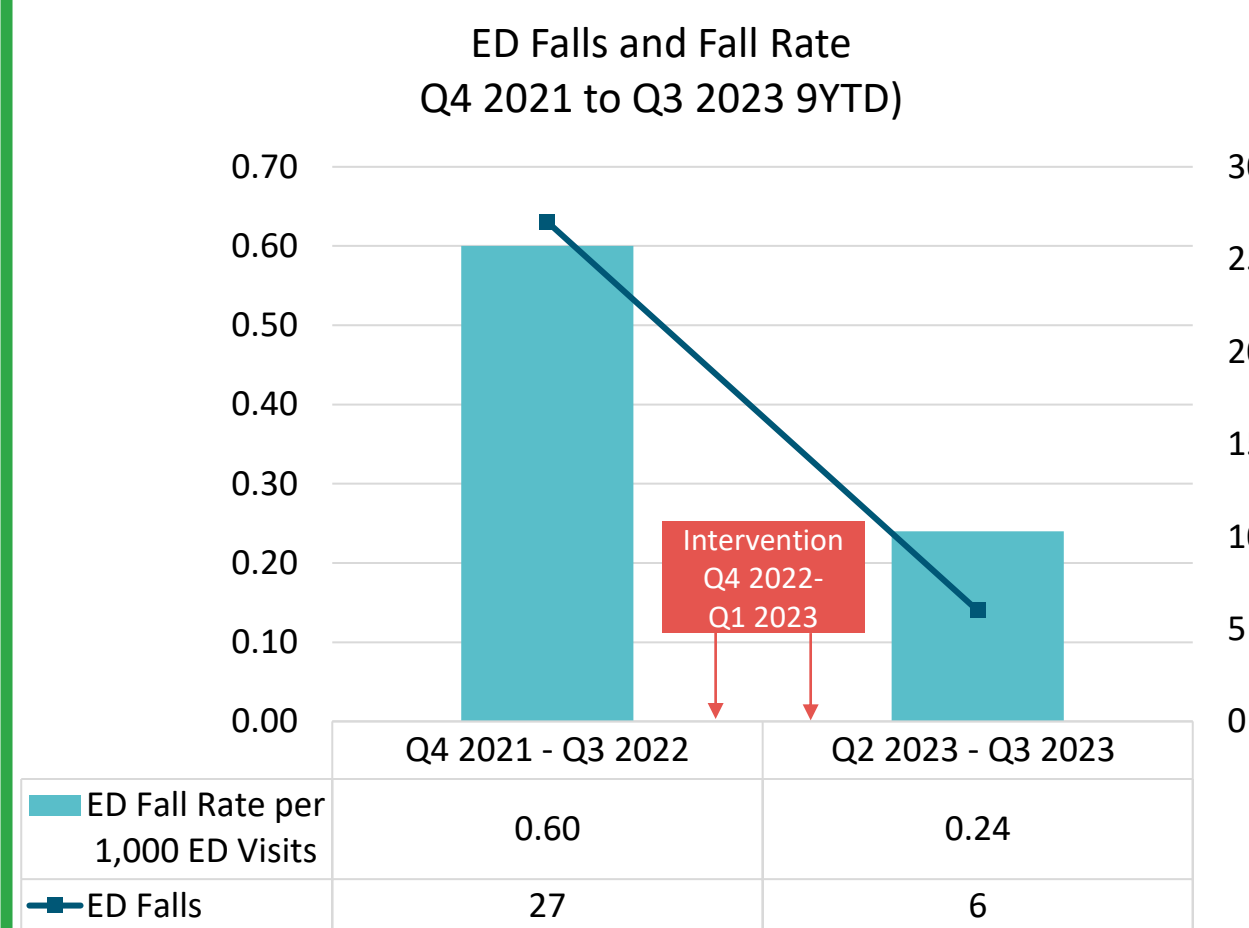
- Fall rate 0.60 patient falls per 1,000 ED visits (Q4 2021 to Q3 2022), 27 patient falls.
- Fall rate 0.24 patient falls per 1,000 ED visits (Q2 2023 to Q3 2023), six patient falls.
- 60%↓ ED fall rate; 78%↓ ED patient falls (YTD).
- Nurses taking ownership and responsibility for their patient who falls by reporting out on what they learned and sharing it with their peers is an invaluable passive exercise.
- The same way simulations prepare pilots to prevent a bad outcome, active fall drills are meant to do the same thing, train staff to respond appropriately to prevent a bad patient outcome from a fall.

Project Goal/Objectives

- Reduce patient falls in an acute care community hospital Emergency Department.



Results/Outcomes



Conclusion

- Clinical nurses taking ownership and nurse leader fall drills have proven to be successful passive and active interventions to reduce ED patient falls.

References

- Cook, N. S., Komansky, B. J., & Urton, M. S. (2020). Do No Harm: A Multifactorial Approach to Preventing Emergency Department Falls-A Quality Improvement Project. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*, 46(5), 666-674.
- Fujikawa, H., Son, D., Aoki, T. et al. (2022). Association between patient care ownership and personal or environmental factors among medical trainees: a multicenter cross-sectional study. *BMC Med Educ.* 22, 666.

