

Clinical Nurses' Participation in Reducing Falls

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Background

- Falls with injury rate on the Orthopedic Neuro Trauma Care Center (ONTCC) was 1.8 per 1,000 patient days and bed alarms averaged 7,300 per month causing alarm fatigue.
- Nurses attended an American Hospital Association Falls Event webinar regarding a fall prevention toolkit: **T**ailoring **I**nterventions for **P**atient **S**afety (**TIPS**) program.
- Nurses could apply the TIPS program within their clinical environment to reduce falls and alarm fatigue, and improve overall nursing practice related to patient falls.

Methods/Procedures

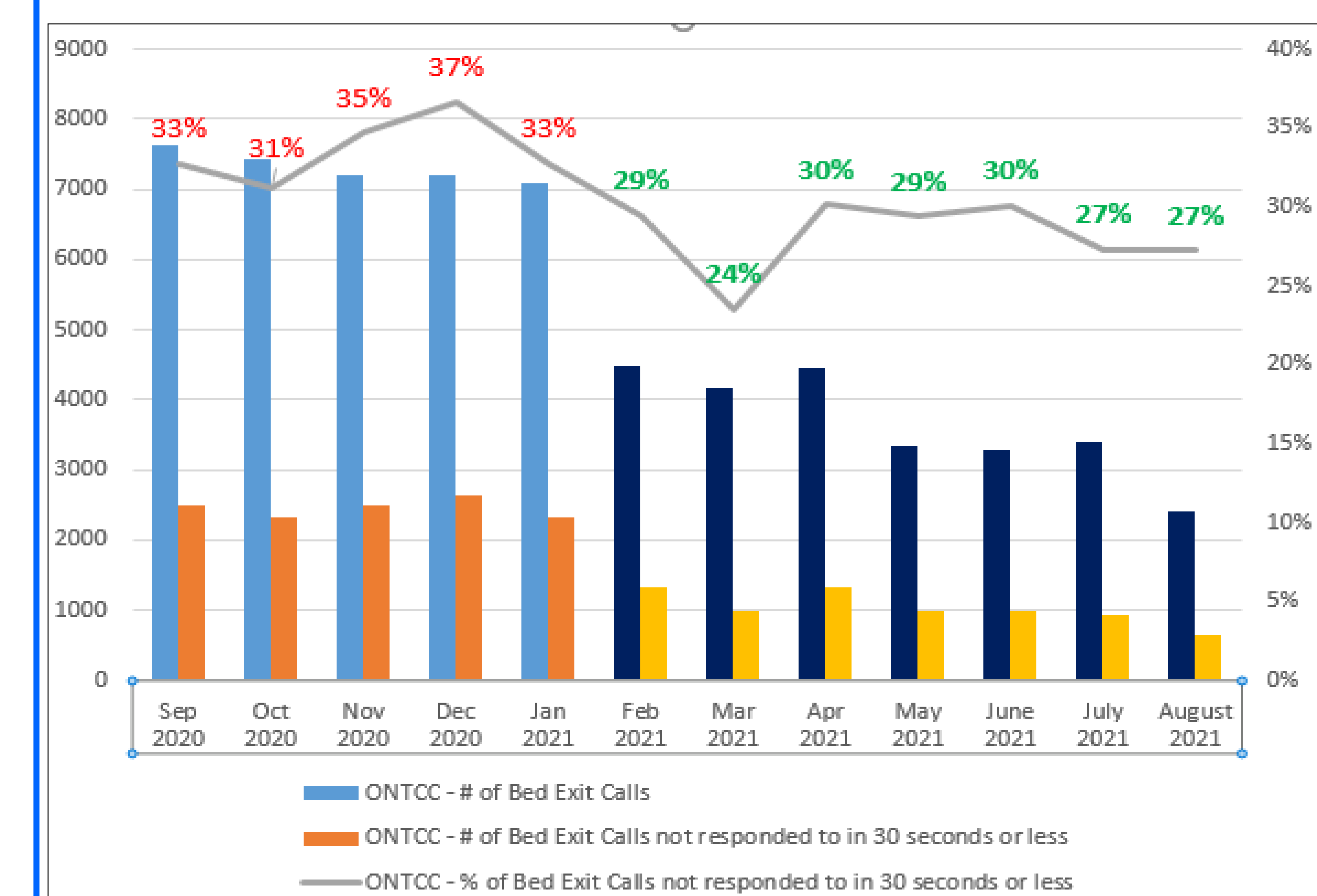
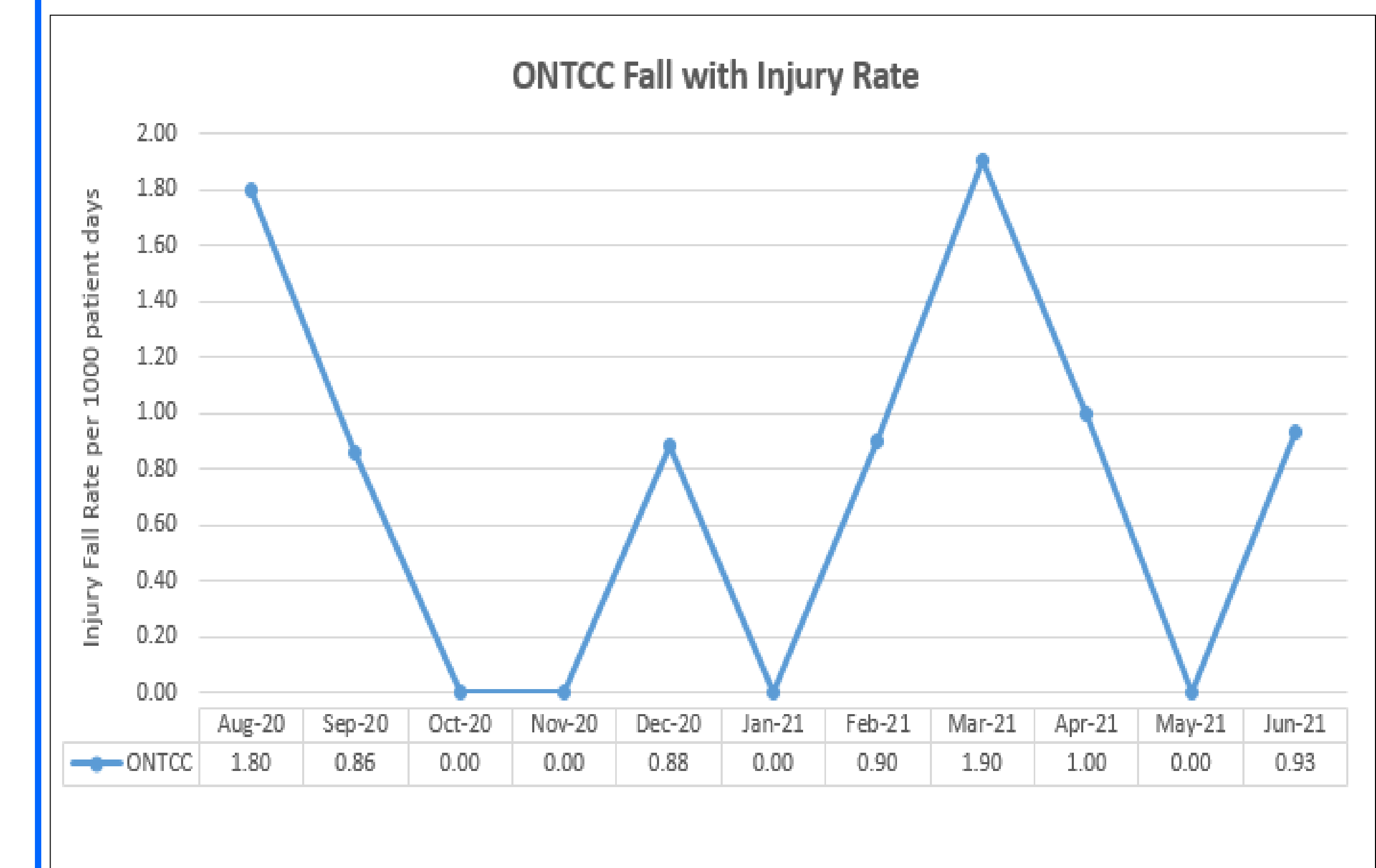
Patient Name: _____		Date: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Increased Risk of Harm If You Fall		Fall Interventions (Circle selection based on color)	
Fall Risks (Check all that apply)		Communicate Recent Fall and/or Risk of Harm	
<input type="checkbox"/> History of Falls	<input type="checkbox"/> Medication Side Effects	<input type="checkbox"/> Walking Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> IV Pole or Equipment
<input type="checkbox"/> Unsteady Walk	<input type="checkbox"/> May Forget or Choose Not to Call	Walking Aids Crutches Cane Walker	Toileting Schedule: Every _____ hours Bed Pan Assist to Commode Assist to Bathroom
		<input type="checkbox"/> Bed Alarm On	Assistance Out of Bed Bed Rest 1 person 2 people

- Create a unit-based fall team responsible for developing, training, and engaging all nursing associates.
- Garner support for TIPS Program from Chief Nursing Officer.
- Implement a train-the-trainer methodology to engage all employees in the Fall TIPS Program.
- Post visual aids in each patient room to assist the clinical nurse in educating each patient.

Implications

- This program could be beneficial in organizations with patients who have the capacity to follow the interventions within the Fall TIPS program.
- When adopting the Fall TIPS assessment, revising the EMR to match practice is imperative.

Outcomes



Purpose / Objectives

- Acquire knowledge related to a fall prevention toolkit that tailors interventions for patient safety by reducing patient falls while increasing staff satisfaction.
- Apply TIPS program knowledge and practices to an orthopedic and trauma med-surg unit to address high fall risk practices.
- Evaluate effectiveness of the TIPS Program on reducing falls (total and falls with injury) and alarm fatigue.

- During post intervention, ONTCC's falls with injury rate averaged 0.95 per 1,000 patient days. This represents a 47% reduction.
- Bed alarms on the unit decreased from an average of 7,300 to 3,850 per month.