

## **365 Days of No Falls with Injuries**

Team Leader: Serena Hartman BSN RN CPAN

Team Members: Trisha Drossman BSN RN,  
Kristen Lemorie MSN APRN AGCNS-BC CPAN CAPA  
Michigan Medicine, Ann Arbor, MI

**Abstract Background Information:** Patient falls are considered critical safety events in the perianesthesia setting. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, our University Hospital (UH) PACU recorded 12 falls, 3 of which resulted in injury. In FY 2024, there were 4 falls, and 2 resulted in injury. Recognizing the need for improvement, our unit adopted enhanced fall prevention strategies aiming for “zero falls with harm.”

**Objectives of Project:** To reduce the incidence of falls and falls with injury in the PACU. Reduce the risk of falls while maintaining the highest possible level of mobility while ensuring patient privacy and respect. UH PACU would like to go 365 days with no falls with harm.

**Process of Implementation:** Our UH PACU Unit Based Committee used the A3 problem-solving approach and collected staff feedback via surveys to identify root causes, notably a lack of awareness of updated fall policies. Interventions included:

- Targeted staff education on fall prevention policies, emphasizing the “within arms’ reach” bathroom policy
- Patient education on fall risk postoperative interventions given in preop
- Installation of clear signage in patient bathrooms
- Ordered 2 Sara Steady devices for the unit
- Introduction of wipeable gait belts
- Utilized LPN’s to focus on safe patient handling
- Recognizing and reinforcing safe practices through a “You Have Been Caught Being Safe” initiative that included a t-shirt
- Moving fall risk assessments earlier in the perioperative process
- Regular communication via monthly emails
- Implemented Fall Rounding

**Statement of Successful Practice:** Following these interventions, the PACU achieved 365 consecutive days with zero falls resulting in injury.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** This project demonstrates that a data-driven, A3 problem-solving approach can successfully eliminate falls with injury in the PACU. Sustained focus on education, clear policy communication, and patient engagement advances perianesthesia safety culture and may serve as a model for similar clinical settings.