Development of Falls Risk Tool Specific to Obstetric Patients

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INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

• Fall rates for pregnant women have been reported to be as high as 27%. Infants born to injured pregnant women are more likely to have a low birth weight or to have been born prematurely, according to one study (Heafner, et. al. 2013).

• Previous practice within our institution was to utilize the Morse Falls Risk Assessment Tool upon admission in all adult inpatient settings. This tool has not been validated or deemed reliable for the obstetric population.

• In the obstetric patients that fell, the Morse Falls Risk Assessment Tool only identified our patients as high risk 60% of the time and fall rates continue to rise.

• The Fall Risk Assessment for Perinatal Patients (FRAPP) Tool (Figure 1) was created using evidence based obstetric risk factors that have been supported in the literature to contribute to an obstetric woman falling in the antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum period.

METHODS

• Retrospective audits were conducted identifying trends of obstetric falls over a three year period. Eleven patient falls were archived using our hospital’s event management system.

• A literature review was conducted to research risk factors associated with falls in perinatal patients.

• An evidence based tool was created based on the perinatal risk factors identified and implemented in October of 2016.

• Risk levels were stratified as Low and High to align with hospital wide levels and interventions. A mobility challenge was included within the interventions to assist in preventing falls in the high risk patient.

• Ongoing assessment of the FRAPP tool’s validity and reliability will be considered.

• Perinatal risk factors have now been captured within the new tool in order to recognize proper risk categories and improve reporting of patient falls.

PICO

Population – Perinatal Patients

Intervention- Fall Risk Assessment for Perinatal Patients (FRAPP) Tool

Comparison- Morse Falls Risk Assessment Tool

Outcome – Decrease the Number of Falls Throughout the Hospital Stay

PICO Question:

In perinatal patients, does the implementation of the FRAPP Tool compared to the Morse Falls Risk Assessment Tool decrease the number of falls throughout the hospital stay?

RESULTS

• The tool was implemented among antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum patients. Since implementation of the FRAPP tool in October 2016, fall rates on the Childbirth Center were compared to those patients that fell in the control group using the Morse Falls Risk Assessment Tool.

• Since implementation of the FRAPP tool, there was one fall recorded in July of 2017.

• In October 2017, the data will be analyzed for statistical significance using SPSS.

CONCLUSION

• Ongoing assessment of the FRAPP tool’s validity and reliability will be considered.

• Perinatal risk factors have now been captured within the new tool in order to recognize proper risk categories and improve reporting of patient falls.

• The possibility exists of desensitizing clinical staff in recognizing patients at high risk for falls due to more patients falling into the high risk category.

• There is a lack of evidence based research related to perinatal specific fall risk.