

Patient Safety ALERT: Patient Falls



We provide good care to help prevent patient falls, but sometimes they do happen despite this. Should a patient fall, please ensure the following steps are taken, having first made the patient safe:

- Registered practitioners should record and monitor **neurological observations** where a head injury has occurred or cannot be ruled out - the frequency and duration of these must be in line with NICE guidance as outlined on the **post falls checklist**;
- **Complete the post falls checklist**, using the same form for multiple falls to ensure a record of falls is kept centrally;
- **Ensure the checklist is placed with the observation charts**, at the end of the patient's bed;
- Include any falls the patient has had at the **bedside handover** and in the **safety briefing** and ensure that nursing, medical and therapy teams are made aware of any falls.

Useful links

Post falls checklist: http://ndht.ndevon.swest.nhs.uk/?page_id=29771

Assessment of Clinical Competency for Monitoring and Recording Neurological Observations:
<http://ndht.ndevon.swest.nhs.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Competency-assessment-monitor-and-record-neurological-observations-v2-aug-10-Copy.pdf>

Reminder: when recording neurological observations, a full set of observations including EWS must be included.

FOR ACTION:
Ensure that all staff are aware of the above when providing care following a fall.

For more information, please contact sarahjames2@nhs.net