

Exploring parents' knowledge of paediatric inpatient falls to inform nursing practice

Introduction/Purpose:

While there has been extensive published research into adult hospital-based falls, less is known about the frequency, risk factors or implemented strategies to minimise the risk of paediatric inpatient falls. Parents may play a central role in reducing falls-related incidents given that, as parents, they provide care and/or oversee care delivered to their child at the bedside. Understanding parent's knowledge of hospital-related falls ensures that falls prevention education is targeted and relevant. This qualitative study aims to explore parents' knowledge and perceptions of inpatient falls risk or prevention strategies within a paediatric hospital setting. Findings will have implications for nursing practice and education delivered to consumers and their family.

Methods:

Parents of children and/or young people hospitalised in the Sydney Children's Hospital Network (SCHN) in the previous six months were eligible to participate. Potential participants attending an outpatient clinic at SCHN campuses were invited to participate in the study. Participants consented to complete an in-depth interview. Open-ended questions sought to explore participant's perceptions about inpatient falls and their exposure to falls education and resources during a previous hospital admission. Interviews were digitally recorded and transcribed verbatim. Familiarisation and coding of de-identified transcripts are currently underway. A simple thematic analysis will be undertaken by the research team.

Results:

Twenty four parents/families completed an in-depth interview. Participants describe several risks associated with hospital based falls and offered practical solutions to reduce falls risks. Concepts that are beginning to emerge from the data include "environmental distractions," "parent's diligence of care," "not thinking about falls," and "feeling uninformed."

Conclusion:

Dominant themes will be presented. Our findings will provide a unique insight into parent's knowledge of why children fall during hospitalisation. Findings are likely to inform nursing practice and future paediatric inpatient falls prevention strategies and education.