

Title:

Injuries in healthcare: The case for transfer equipment

Nick Alford

Lakeview College of Nursing

N434: Evidence-Based Practice

Professor Whisman

06/14/2025

Injuries in healthcare: The case for transfer equipment

Falls in acute care settings remain one of the greatest common and preventable harms that patients incur during an admission, and staff are often harmed in the act of transferring weaker patients. These falls can impart significant negative impacts including prolonging length of stay, requiring surgical intervention, reduced employee productivity, employee absence, workman's compensation claims, lawsuits, and loss of clients to the hospital. The training or fitness of an employee or patient is not enough to prevent these alone, and the use of appropriate transfer equipment has been found to make a significant impact on metrics related to these potential fall outcomes. Ensuring that hospitals are adequately outfitted with transfer equipment represents a meaningful way to invest in quality improvement.

Article Summary

In the article "Patient handling training interventions and musculoskeletal injuries in healthcare workers: Systematic review and meta-analysis" by Kugler, Taylor, and Brusco (2024), evaluate the effectiveness of training in patient handling and the outcomes related to injuries of healthcare workers and patients subsequent of falls. Their work included nine trials of both randomized and nonrandomized control trials and utilized nearly four thousand people employed in patient care. Outcomes analyzed included new or chronic back injuries and injury rates.

Among their findings was poor evidence that transfer and body mechanics training of employees alone was not a sufficient means for reducing the incidence of back injuries in employees, and that proper equipment and supports were physically necessary to make an observable impact in the propensity for transfer related injuries (Kugler et al., 2024).

Introduction

Falls represent one of the greatest losses of resources to a hospital, and preventing injury is a safety priority of all those served by, and employed by, a hospital. These events are most common when clients are moving between surfaces such as when transferring from a bedside to a bedside chair. Clients may be exhibiting profound changes to their normal strength with poor perception of their deteriorated condition and therefore place staff in situations where significant physical exertion may be suddenly and forcibly required of them. Despite transfer training as a modern standard of practice in most facilities with their staff, injury rates continue to be prevalent. Research such as what was conducted here routinely supports the use of mechanical transfer devices as a key driver of harm reduction in these scenarios. These devices may be simple and ubiquitous as properly involving a walker, as robust as a ceiling-lift, or as functional and efficient as a Sara-Stedy.

Overview

Kugler et al. (2024) examines whether training alone was a sufficient means to prevent injury to caregivers and patients in the context of frequent workplace patient transfers. By conducting a meta-analysis inclusive of a variety of transfer associated interventions, it was able to demonstrate that where the greatest change in injury frequency and severity was identified, it

was when assistive devices were incorporated. This is not to say that training wasn't necessary or didn't carry benefits. Rather, when it was paired specifically with equipment specialized for making transfers safer and easier, there were demonstrable improvements. It highlights the value of institutions making investments into transfer equipment by demonstrating the reduction of injury and improvement of safety.

Quality Improvement

As such, the article supports the acquisition and use of mechanical transfer devices and the training for standard transfers and transfers that employ this equipment as a means of quality improvement. By reducing the likelihood of a fall and the physical impacts of one by using these devices, we can reduce workplace injuries to clients and staff alike. Improvements were further extended to reduce employee absence from injury, lower organizational liability relating to nosocomial traumas, and increased workflow efficiency for clinical staff by making such transfers more expedient. Taken together, investments into transfer equipment represent one of the purest forms of transforming financial resources directly and measurably into tangible improvements in hospital quality (Kugler et al., 2024).

STEP 2 BELOW TO COME:

Application to Nursing

Here add in a summary of the information learned to the application to practice. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com. Be sure to cover all aspects within the rubric. Be sure to use double space and to tab over for your first line of a new paragraph.

Practice

Paragraph goes here discussing the application to practice. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

Education

Paragraph goes here discussing the application to education. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

Research

Paragraph goes here discussing the application of research. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

Conclusion

Write a conclusion here in your overall paper. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

References

Kugler, H. L., Taylor, N. F., & Brusco, N. K. (2024). Patient handling training interventions and musculoskeletal injuries in healthcare workers: Systematic review and meta-analysis.

Heliyon, 10(3), e24937. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2024.e24937>