

INTRODUCTION

- Falls in the older adult are a major factor in regards to mortality, decreased mobility, and put a significant strain on financial resources (CDC, 2011;2012).
- The Department of Health and Human Services supports screening and fall risk education for every new Medicare patient (National Council on Aging, 2011).
- Limited research exists for provider's perspective on the barriers to completing fall risk assessments in both the primary and acute settings.

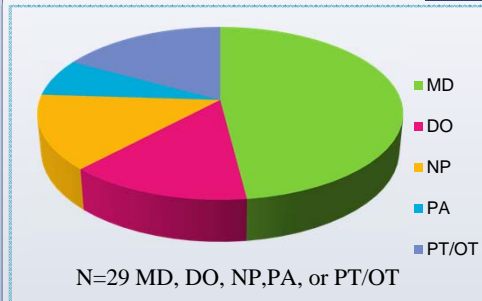
PURPOSE

- Evaluation of the barriers that exist with fall risk assessment among nurse practitioners, physicians, and physicians assistants for older adult patients.
- To identify what the specific barriers are to completing a fall risk assessment in inpatient and outpatient settings.
- To classify where within the patient care spectrum providers deem it appropriate to provide screening and intervention in the prevention of falls.

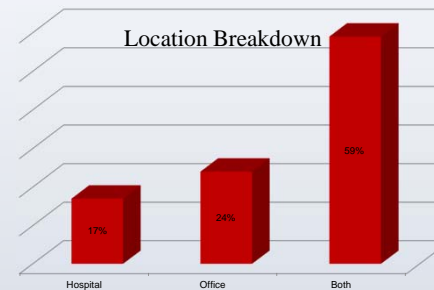
METHODS

- A BlueQ survey was distributed to providers in a Midwestern Health System.
- Network email was used to distribute a Likert scale survey to 166 physicians and 65 providers.

RESULTS



- 53% believed they have access to evidence-based resources.
- 62% of surveyed providers performed an outpatient fall screening exam, compared to only 7% that had performed fall screening on hospitalized patients.
- 38% of respondents felt that it was "sometimes" necessary to perform fall risk screening on older adults at primary care visits.
- >90% chose "always" necessary to assess fall risk on inpatients.
- 41% report there is "never", or "almost never", enough time in their scheduled visit to discuss falls in the outpatient setting and 34% note there is "never", or "almost never", enough time in inpatient rounding.

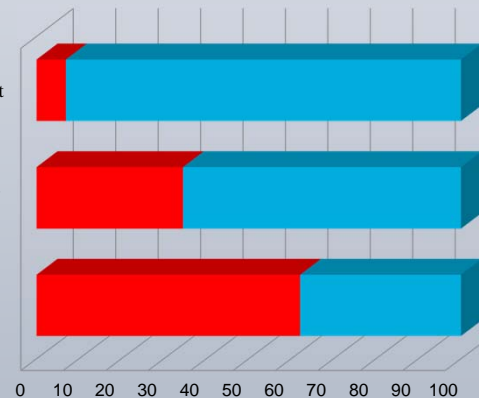


I have performed an inpatient fall screen on an older adult >65, such as the Morse Fall Scale?

I have received formal instruction in management of outpatient falls in the older adult patient >65

Have you ever performed an outpatient falls screen on an older adult patient >65, such as the timed "up and go" or the HOMEFAST screen?

■ YES ■ NO



CONCLUSIONS

Barriers Identified in fall risk assessment:

- Time Constraints
- Provider Formal Fall Education
- Resources pertaining to fall risk assessment and management.
- Need for consistent screening tools and guidelines.

FUTURE RESEARCH

- Intrinsic factors on falls such as osteoporosis and hypertension and their management in relation to fall risk.
- Management of falls inpatient and outpatient to improve patients' overall medical outcomes.
- Effective provider education development for fall risk assessment and management.
- Identification of specific attitudes and behaviors of providers in regards to fall risk assessment.

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