



December 25, 2014



DAILY SITUATIONAL AWARENESS BRIEF



Marion County Medical Multi-Agency Coordination Center

NATIONAL TERRORISM ADVISORY SYSTEM

No active alerts



74°

Mostly Sunny

Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. West southwest wind 11 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



45°

Partly Cloudy

Partly cloudy, with a low around 45. Southwest wind 11 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph.



ASTHMA INDEX

1



UV INDEX

5

THREAT ANALYSIS

Happy Holidays!

Healthcare facilities can reduce patient falls with preventive measures

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related death in people age 65 and older and the number of people who experience them is rising.

Nearly 24,000 people in this age group died after a fall in 2012, about twice as many as a decade earlier. In the same year, more than 2.4 million people age 65 and older were treated in emergency departments for fall-related injuries, which represented a 50 percent increase from 2002. As the population ages and people live longer, this burden is expected to increase. In 2012, there were 1.4 million Americans living in nursing homes and if current trends continue, by 2030 that number will increase to 3 million. (Sources: [New York Times](#), [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#))

Nursing home residents account for about 20 percent of falls among the elderly. In 2013, about 240,000 falls were reported among hospital inpatients. In addition to the obvious harm to patients, such incidents impact healthcare facilities financially. Each fall that occurs in a hospital costs the facility an average of \$7,200, according to a report released recently by the Department of Health and Human Services, and Medicare currently will not pay for the treatment of injuries from a fall in a hospital. (Sources: [CDC](#), [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](#), [New York Times](#))

As the number of people experiencing serious or fatal injuries from falls increases, healthcare providers are challenged to adopt preventive measures for at-risk patients that do not impede on their personal freedoms. (Sources: [New York Times](#), [Journal of Patient Safety](#))

ACTION STEPS

1

Consider creating a multi-disciplinary staff committee to identify hazards in your facility that could lead to falls and strategies for mitigating them. These may include changing bed heights, installing more grab bars, floor lights and energy-absorbing flooring, and training housekeeping and maintenance staff to be on alert for and report potential tripping hazards or unstable furniture. (Sources: [CDC](#), [New York Times](#))

2

Complete a fall risk assessment for each admitted patient using resources like the CDC's [Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths and Injuries](#) toolkit for healthcare providers. Constantly encourage both patients and staff to report falls to nursing personnel so that patients can be evaluated for injuries and identified as at-risk for future falls. (Source: [Journal of Patient Safety](#))

3

Offer patients education and training sessions on improving balance and fitness, which is proven to help reduce the risk of falls. (Source: [New York Times](#))

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY

25

No Mass Gatherings Scheduled

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