

STAYING SAFE IN THE HOSPITAL

This hospital is a member of the Partnership for Patients, a nationwide effort to improve safety for patients in 3,700 hospitals across the country. Part of the Affordable Care Act, the project is expected to result in 60,000 lives saved, 1.8 million fewer injuries, and 1.6 million people recovering from illness without complication and need for readmission to the hospital, with an estimated cost savings of \$35 billion from 2011-2014.

Here are five key priorities for our work:

YOUR RISK People are sometimes admitted back to the hospital soon after their initial hospitalization. Our goal is to prevent these readmissions. This is better for patients and families and it also helps lower the cost of care.

WHAT YOU CAN DO Make sure we have explained your medications and follow up appointments so that you are sure you understand. Know the signs and symptoms of your condition and when you should consult your primary care physicians or other provider. Do not hesitate to ask questions — this may prevent a relapse or complication and perhaps a return to the hospital.

PREVENTABLE READMISSIONS

MEDICATION SAFETY

YOUR RISK Medications have proven to be very beneficial for treating illness and preventing disease. Some patients have multiple health problems and need multiple medications. Unfortunately, this increases the chance for a drug interactions, or unwanted or undesirable side effects.

We care about your safety. Our physicians, nurses and pharmacists work together to review your medications. They ensure the medications are safe for you, and that you and your family members understand how to take them and why they are needed.

WHAT YOU CAN DO Keep an accurate and up to date list of your medications and dosages that you take. Be sure to include vitamins, herbal supplements and over-the-counter products. Make sure you understand why you are taking each medication and ask your physician if you are unsure.

YOUR RISK Some patients have a medical reason to have a catheter inserted into the bladder. These catheters increase the risk of developing a urinary tract infection.

For your safety, we have guidelines to use catheters only when necessary and to remove them as soon as possible. We follow proven methods to ensure we provide appropriate insertion and catheter care.

WHAT YOU CAN DO If you or a loved one needs a urinary catheter, ask why and what the plan is to remove it.

PREVENTING INFECTIONS

PREVENTING FALLS

YOUR RISK Falls in hospitals are the leading cause of injury for patients over 65. Some illnesses and medications may make patients lightheaded and dizzy, placing them at a risk for a fall.

For your safety, we assess your risk of falling. Our nurses have special training in safety measures to prevent harm if a fall does occur.

WHAT YOU CAN DO Tell us if you have had a recent fall or if you have any unsteadiness or weakness when moving around or walking. Don't be embarrassed to ask for help. Use your call button and always ask for help if you need to get out of bed or to use the bathroom, especially at night. Ask what is being done to help prevent you or your loved one from a fall and injury.

YOUR RISK Blood clots in the legs and lungs — called Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) or Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) — are a significant cause of harm to patients in hospitals. Some medical conditions and physical limitations may place patients at a higher risk of a blood clot.

For your safety, we assess all patients for the risk of developing a blood clot while in the hospital. Our health care team will use preventive methods to help prevent a clot from forming in patients at risk.

WHAT YOU CAN DO If you are hospitalized, ask your doctor if you are at risk for a clot and what will be done to help prevent this from occurring.

PREVENTING BLOOD CLOTS



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