



Fall Prevention Resources

Veterans Affairs National Center for Patient Safety

In 2003, **falls represented nearly 47%** of all safety reports and aggregated events within the Veteran Affairs (VA) National Center for Patient Safety's database, and 11% of all Root Cause Analyses occurring in calendar year 2003 were fall-related.

In 1996, one Veterans Affairs VISN broke down their fall rates as follows:

- 20.4% of falls were located in the Nursing Home Care units
- 14.8% of falls were located in the Acute Care unit
- 60% of falls occurred in patients over the age of 65

The VA National Center for Patient Safety (NCPS) worked with the Patient Safety Center of Inquiry in Tampa, Florida, and others to develop the NCPS Falls Toolkit. The toolkit is designed to aid facilities in developing a comprehensive falls prevention program.

The VA Falls Toolkit provides information on:

- Designing a falls prevention and management program
- Effective interventions for high-risk fall patients
- Implementing hip protectors for high-risk fall patients
- Educating patients, families and staff on falls and fall-injury prevention

For more information on fall prevention programs visit the National Center for Patient Safety website at <http://www.va.gov/ncps/SafetyTopics/fallstoolkit/index.html>.

Source: VHA NCPS Toolkit: Background, May 2004. <http://www.va.gov/ncps/SafetyTopics/fallstoolkit/index.html>. Copyright 2007 Carroll Hospital Group.