### 3C: Tool Covering Environmental Safety at the Bedside

**Background:** Facility safety is key to preventing falls in the hospital.

**Reference:** Adapted from AHRQ publication on the Falls Management Program for nursing homes. Available at: [www.ahrq.gov/research/ltc/fallspx/fallspxmanual.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/research/ltc/fallspx/fallspxmanual.htm).

**How to use this tool:** This tool contains an inspection checklist to be completed jointly by the unit manager and facility engineer to identify and resolve environmental safety issues in hospital rooms. The inspection is designed to be performed room by room and bed by bed within each room (if rooms are not private).

Use the results from the inspection process to determine which items require attention by the nursing staff or maintenance or replacement by the facility engineers. Additional guidance for engineers about maintenance and repairs may be found at: [www.ahrq.gov/research/ltc/fallspx/fallspxmanapd.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/research/ltc/fallspx/fallspxmanapd.htm).

##### Inspection List

Write the unit name, date, and room numbers across the top line. Put the bed number or letter across the second line and sign it. Put an “X” under the room number and bed beside all the tasks that need to be done (leave blank if no safety issue is identified or problem can be fixed immediately). Indicate whether this task should be completed by the nursing staff or facilities staff in the Assigned column. Tasks that are typically completed by the facility engineers are denoted with an “(f).” Write notes about special problems or add details in the Notes column.

| Unit | Date: | Room Number: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Assigned to | Notes |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Signature:  | Bed: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Paths | Remove unused equipment (canes/walkers). |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Remove bedside commode, if unused. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| With patient’s permission, rearrange room to clear paths. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Put the bedside table next to the bed or across bed. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Remove unused items from bathroom and store elsewhere. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Make tiebacks for divider curtains. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| Tie electrical cords out of path (TV, phone). |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| 2. Furniture | Adjust bed into locked position.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Replace unstable bed with a stable one. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Push bed to wall (check local and state fire codes). |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Remove all lightweight or unstable furniture. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Clean, repair, or replace broken bed wheel locks. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| Fix unstable furniture. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| Secure loose bathroom handrails. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| Replace missing rubber tips on bedside commode. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| Replace missing rubber tips on handrails that rest on floor. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| Secure raised toilet seat to commode. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| 3. Easy Access | Arrange room so that items are within patient’s reach (e.g., walking aids are within safe reach). |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4. Floor | Repair or replace floor covering. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| Replace high, broken, or missing thresholds. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| Add grading to thresholds between room and bathroom. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| 5. Lighting  | Replace burned out or flickering bulbs. Use max wattage. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| Repair broken room lights or call lights. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| Replace broken call light cords or lengthen cords. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| 6. Equipment  | Inspect wheelchair (for all wheelchairs found). |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| Repair cane. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |
| Repair walker. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (f) |  |

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