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Demonstrating the Role of Occupational Therapy in Hospice Care through Fall Prevention Intervention Program Development

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Hospice Mission and Vision

Mission

"We provide loving care to people with life-threatening illnesses, support to their families, and service to the community in a spirit of enriching lives."

Vision

"To be recognized as expert providers of hospice care, palliative care, management of advanced disease and grief support and to be the agency of choice for the provision of these services."

"To be recognized as innovators and leaders in all aspects of end-of-life resources."

"To influence the perceptions within the community and among medical professionals so that the end of life is accepted as a meaningful component of the human experience."

Information on Falls

Fall Statistics

(January 2019-January 2020)

Total # of falls/1000 patient days: 7.8

Total # of falls resulting in major injuries (fractures, head trauma, etc.)/1000 patient days: 0.2

Common causes/reasons for falls reported

- Agitation/confusion and tried getting up alone
- Legs gave out and felt weak
- Lost balance while ambulating
- Dizziness/lightheadedness
- Missed a step while ambulating
- Difficulty with use of ambulation device (rollator, rolling/standard walker, cane, etc.)
- Ambulating without assistance

Identified Needs

Provide staff members with education regarding underutilization of therapy services in hospice care and on the role of occupational therapy in hospice care

Develop and implement a uniform fall prevention and intervention program for staff members in accordance with The Joint Commission

Create and be able to provide caregivers and patients with fall prevention education deliverables

Goals of the Experiential Component

Identify and gain an understanding of the role of each discipline within hospice care

Develop and implement a fall prevention and intervention staff training program

Develop and implement a variety of educational deliverables on fall prevention for caregivers and patients

Provide education to staff on the utilization of therapy services in hospice care

Outcomes of A Fall Prevention Intervention Program

Developed PowerPoint presentation of fall prevention and intervention program for staff members in accordance with The Joint Commission

Presented fall prevention and intervention program to Directors

Created a variety of educational deliverables for caregivers and patients on fall prevention information/education

Attended community outreach event and distributed caregiver deliverables on fall prevention, advocated for the role of occupational therapy in hospice care