Purpose: The purpose of this express in-service is to inform all UTMB Health staff of some key ideas in the Patient Falls Prevention Policy.

Audience: UTMB inpatient staff, patients and families.

Policy: UTMB Health is committed to patient safety and a culture of trust. Preventing patient falls and injury involves the patient, their family, all staff and health care professionals.

Assessment Tools:
- Morse Fall Scale (MFS): A fall risk assessment tool that predicts the likelihood of an adult patient from falling. This tool will be used for patients who are 18 years and older.
- Humpty Dumpty Fall Assessment (HDFA): A tool that can help predict the likelihood of a pediatric patient fall. This tool will be used for patients who are ≥ 90 days but < 18 years old.

A fall risk assessment shall be completed by a Registered Nurse as part of the Nursing Admission Assessment on all inpatients within 24 hours of admission, including patients in observation status.

In the Emergency Department (ED), a fall risk assessment shall be completed at the time of the ED nursing focused assessment.

All patients shall be reassessed every shift, after any changes in the patient’s condition, and after a fall.

Patient’s Plan of Care: An individualized fall prevention plan of care shall be implemented and documented in the EMR based on the assessment score and individual patient risks.

Goal is to prevent patient falls and fall related injuries.

A screen shot of a MFS assessment of a patient that has no identified areas of risk. In this case, the only interventions that are appropriate to include in the plan are the generic environmental safety measures noted.

A screen shot of a HDFA score that is between 7 and 12 and triggers the Low Risk Interventions row.

The “Call Don’t Fall” poster can be placed in the patient’s room and bathroom at eye level as a reminder to the patient and family.

Visual cues for patients identified as moderate or high fall risk will be used throughout patient care areas.

Moderate Fall Risk
Yellow Wristband

High Fall Risk
Red Socks

Any healthcare professional or staff who observes a patient with red socks ambulating unassisted, should be supported and stand beside the patient until assistance arrives.

The Patient Agreement Form is available in English and Spanish as an educational tool for patients and their families. Documentation of education provided is still done on the peach bordered teaching sheet.

Please Note: EPIC changes will be available on Thursday, October 18th, 2012. Watch for it!

You can access the policy at http://intranet.utmb.edu/policies_and_procedures/Search_Results/PNP_140

Patient Falls Prevention Plan: IHOP 9.13.39

Express In-service
Questions: Contact Barbara Bonificio, MSN, RN-BC at babonifi@utmb.edu or Maribel M. Bhojani, MS, BSN, RN-BC at mmbhojan@utmb.edu