Impact of a falls education poster on nurses’ knowledge of pediatric falls assessment scales and falls prevention interventions.
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Introduction
The purpose of this project was to create and implement a pediatric falls education poster on the pediatric acute care unit at Hershey Medical Center. A pre and post survey was done to assess the poster’s efficacy in improving nurses’ knowledge of pediatric falls assessment scales and falls prevention interventions.

Methods
PICO question: In registered nurses working on the pediatric acute care unit, can a pediatric falls education poster improve nurses’ knowledge of pediatric falls scales and interventions to prevent falls?

- A falls education poster was created by gathering pertinent falls information from the literature and falls data from the pediatric acute care unit at Hershey Medical Center. The poster focused on general falls information, falls risk assessment scales, falls risk factors, and falls risk identification measures utilized at Hershey Medical Center.
- A falls knowledge assessment questionnaire was created.
- 18 nurses on the pediatric acute care floor at Hershey Medical Center were given the falls knowledge assessment questionnaire.
- The same 18 nurses then viewed the falls education poster.
- After viewing the poster, they were administered the same falls knowledge assessment questionnaire and the data was recorded.

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Results
In almost every area where there was a knowledge deficit the nurses scores increased on the post-test after having reviewed the Pediatric Falls Education Poster. Nurses scored the lowest when identifying HDFS criteria in both the pre-test and post-test.

Discussion
The nurses on the pediatric acute care floor, seemed to recognize the importance of caregiver education and what information should be included in caregiver teaching. They had the most difficult time in recognizing the components of the Humpty Dumpty Fall Scale. Many of the nurses commented on how helpful an educational falls prevention poster in the room would be due to the lack of retention caregivers have when education about falls is conducted. Their recommendation of supplying a falls prevention poster at the bedside has been studied and documented in the literature and has been found to improve caregiver knowledge of falls prevention and ultimately reduce fall rates (Lee, Yip, Goh, Chiam, & Ng, 2013).

Conclusion
The results of the research indicated that a falls education poster was effective in improving nurses’ knowledge of pediatric falls education and were aware of the falls prevention interventions in place on the unit. They struggled, however, with identifying the components of the Humpty Dumpty Fall Scale. It is pertinent that nurses have a better understanding of the factors that place a patient at a higher risk for falls so that they are able to intervene appropriately.

References
Ryan-Wenger, N., Kimchi-Woods, J., Erbaugh, M., LaFollette, L., & Lathrop, J. (2012). Pediatric Acute Care Floor 3, and especially our preceptor nurses Ashlize Homer and Sarah McAllister for their contribution, training, and support for this project.