

New approaches prevent falls in long term care



New approaches to reducing resident falls are yielding results in rural long term care facilities. Visual tools, such as a leaf symbol attached to a wheelchair or room door, identify residents at risk of falling. A coloured dot on the leaf signifies an increased risk due to a temporary change in medication, condition, or other factors. When a resident does fall, staff huddle within 30 minutes to determine the root cause and find a preventative solution. During a four-month period, Balcarres Integrated Care Centre and Fort Qu'Appelle's Echo Lodge Special Care Home used these methods to reduced falls 72.5 per cent (from 10 to 2.75 per month) and 38 per cent (from 5.25 to 3.25 per month) respectively.

“Using tools that allow all staff to see who’s at risk will ultimately improve resident safety.”

Lindsay Olson-Weir, Quality and Strategy