

The Fall Safety Champion

A component of some successful falls prevention programs has been the identification of a “falls champion”. This is often a nursing assistant, staff nurse, staff development coordinator, or director of nursing who receives additional education and mentoring on falls prevention strategies and leadership skills. This person may be charged with training new staff, overseeing documentation and communication and continuing to raise awareness about the importance of preventing falls. These key individuals require additional training and support for sustainability of a falls education program. Annals of Long Term Care / Volume 14, Number 6 / June 2006. Alice Bonner, RN, GNP, FAANP

Typical characteristics of the Falls Champion

- Motivated
- Dynamic
- Interested in quality outcomes with strong problem solving skills Skilled in utilizing root cause analysis
- Has leadership qualities
- Willing to take on this new role

The Falls Champion Duties and Responsibilities

- Trains new staff
- Oversees documentation
- Oversees communication
- Keeps client safety opportunities on the forefront
- Shares tips, best practices and information
- Rewards fellow co-workers who promote client safety
- Tells their stories and encourage others to tell theirs
- Continues to raise awareness about the importance of preventing falls
- Participates in rounds
- Encourages others to “think outside the box” and speak up for client safety
- Attends initial and on-going training
- Attends seminars to remain on the cutting edge of trends and practices
- Disseminates new information to other staff members

The Falls Champion Needs

- Additional training and support for sustaining a falls program
- Access to resources