2019 Research Awards

Project Title:

Embracing digital disruption for more responsive care and fewer fall injuries in hospitals

Lead Investigator:

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Collaborative Project Team:

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Project Summary:

It is important to keep patients safe while they receive care in hospital. However, many patients are at an elevated risk of falling when they are in hospital. This may be due to many factors related to the patient (including illnesses, injuries, medications, or frailty-related factors), as well as hospital related factors (including the hospital environment, staff actions and organisational responsiveness to risks). Serious injuries or death may result from falls in hospital, particularly among people who are vulnerable due to their health conditions or physical frailty. Despite much effort from clinical teams and researchers, falls remain a frequent cause of injury to patients in hospitals in Australia and elsewhere. However, the increasing use of digital systems and processes in hospitals are providing new opportunities to improve patient safety and the quality of clinical care in hospitals. This program of research seeks to integrate information from new digital systems to better understand how fall-related risk factors interact with clinician work-flow and demand for clinical services in hospital ward environments. It is intended that this information will provide the foundation for new digital-hospital-system supported opportunities to prevent fall-injuries in hospitals.

Research Benefits:

One or more patient falls occur during 34,000 hospitalisations each year in Australia (2015-16, AIHW). Injuries from these falls occur despite substantial prevention efforts from clinicians, administrators and researchers. This research is investigating new opportunities to use digital hospital systems to prevent falls by enabling staff to be more responsiveness to patients' needs and hospital-related risks. The Princess Alexandra Hospital is leading the way with this research that has potential to improve the quality of care and safety for patients in increasingly digitalised hospitals.

DONATE TO THIS PROJECT

PA Research Foundation