TITLE: Fall Prevention in the Emergency Department: Guidelines and Clinical Effectiveness

DATE: 29 April 2010

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What are the guidelines for fall prevention in the emergency department?

2. What is the evidence that fall prevention strategies for a general hospital setting are effective in the emergency department?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 4, 2010), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI (Health Devices Gold), EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. The search was limited to English language articles published between Jan 1, 2005 and Apr 26, 2010. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, observational studies and guidelines. Internet links were provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, observational studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

One systematic review and three observational studies were identified regarding fall prevention strategies in the emergency department. No relevant health technology assessments, randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, or evidence-based guidelines were identified. An additional article of potential interest can be found in the appendix.

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Health technology assessments
No literature identified

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Randomized controlled trials
No literature identified

Controlled clinical trials
No literature identified

Observational studies


   
   Note: the program encompassed a hospital setting, including the emergency department

Guidelines and recommendations
No literature identified

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Additional references