

RCA: Ten Questions to Answer at the Time a Resident Falls

Stay with the resident, call for a nurse, do the following:

1. Ask resident: Are you ok?
2. Ask resident: What were you trying to do?
3. Ask resident or determine: What was different this time?
4. Position of Resident?
 - a. Did they fall near a bed, toilet or chair? How far away?
 - b. On their back, front, L side, or R side?
 - c. Position of their arms & legs?
5. What was the surrounding area like?
 - a. Noisy? Busy? Cluttered?
 - b. If in bathroom, contents of toilet?
 - c. Poor lighting – visibility?
 - d. Position of furniture & equipment? Bed height correct?
6. What was the floor like?
 - a. Wet floor? Urine on floor? Uneven floor? Shiny floor?
 - b. Carpet or tile?
7. What was the resident's apparel?
 - a. Shoes, socks (non-skid?) slippers, bare feet?
 - b. Poorly fitting clothes?
8. Was the resident using an assistive device?
 - a. Walker, cane, wheelchair, merry walker, other?
9. Did the resident have glasses and/or hearing aides on?
10. Who was in the area when the resident fell?