

# NORTH VALLEY MAKES STRIDES IN FALL PREVENTION

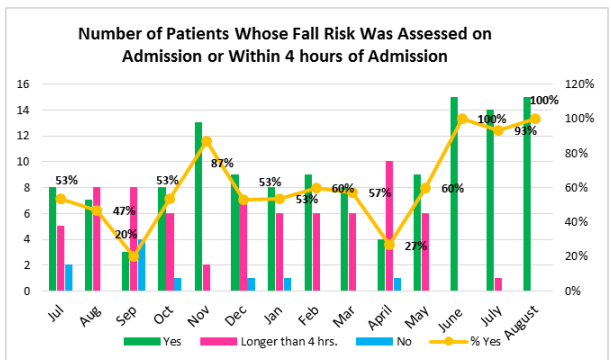
Medical-Surgical Unit Implements Falls Best Practices, Improves Processes



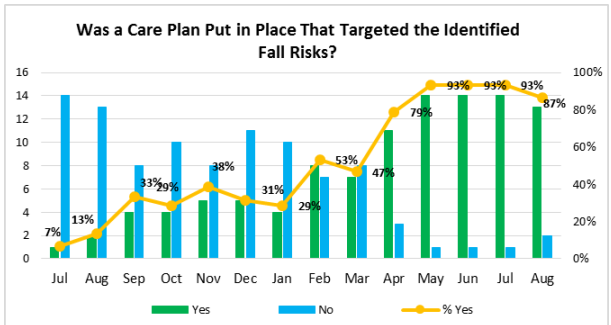
## North Valley Hospital, Whitefish, MT

North Valley's Medical-Surgical unit has been hard at work in the area of Falls Prevention for the past couple of years, with an overall slight downward trend in the All Falls Rate over the last 3 years. Their 2016 efforts have been guided by involvement in the MT PIN Falls Prevention Study and the resources provided by the Hospital Engagement Network (HEN).

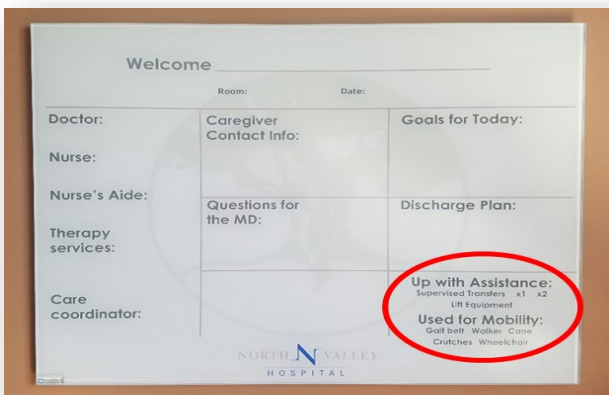
The PIN study helped the unit identify needed process improvements like assessing patients for falls within 4 hours of admission to the unit and fall care plan compliance (graphs, page right). They were successful in achieving improvement in every submitted measure.



This summer, Kelli Avanzino, MN, RN Quality & Jennifer Mager, Med-Surg, RN, attended a PIN/HEN Falls workshop in Chester, MT. A presentation by Jackie Conrad, Falls content expert from Cynosure, was followed by a robust group discussion with



other facilities in the region actively working on falls prevention. Best practices integrated from the workshop included a Post-Falls Checklist which aims to increase compliance with things like physician notification and patient assessment following a fall. In addition, the unit has begun conducting Post-Falls huddles to identify root causes for a fall immediately after the occurrence in order to better identify needed areas for improvement.



*New whiteboards on display in every patient room now incorporate mobility needs, another Falls Prevention best practice.*