

Is Your Healthcare Facility Failing to Minimize the Risk of Falls?



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GAIT ANALYSIS TECHNOLOGY

One of the most common challenges for healthcare facilities around the world is fall prevention, but what is the solution?



Today, both public and private organizations are constantly struggling against cuts, and healthcare organizations are in an ongoing battle of conflicting outcomes.

Healthcare facilities must focus on delivering high-quality patient care, maintaining facility security, preventing infection and ensuring patient safety - all while learning to deal with extremely stretched resources, rising healthcare costs and ever-growing staffing challenges.

Healthcare facilities must invest in effective new technologies and implement modern strategies to overcome these pressing challenges, and ensure that they are able to deliver positive patient outcomes.

One of the most common challenges that healthcare facilities across the world face is fall prevention.

In fact, according to the *World Health Organization (WHO)*, falls are a major public health problem across the globe. An estimated 684,000 fatal falls occur each year, making it the second leading cause of unintentional injury death - after road traffic injuries.

A fall is defined as an act of suddenly collapsing, in which a patient falls rapidly to the floor with no control over their movement. While a fall doesn't have to result in an injury to be classified as such, injuries are a common occurrence from patient falls.

Unfortunately, falls are becoming an increasingly common challenge for healthcare facilities globally.

Research from the *Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality* found fall-related death rates in the United States increased between 1999 and 2004, from 29 to 41 per 100,000 population. Between 2018 and 2021, fall related deaths increased again from 64.4 to 78.0 per 100,000 population (*Healthy People 2030*).

This is way below the *Healthy People 2030* fall-prevention goal, from the *US Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion*, which specifically seeks to reduce the number of deaths resulting from falls among those aged 65 or older from the 2018 baseline of 64.4 per 100,000 population to no more than 63.4 per 100,000 by 2030.

That's why it's important that your healthcare facility implements a successful fall prevention strategy.

Does your healthcare facility have a fall prevention strategy in place?

Falls can result in patients extending the period in which they are in your care, even staying in your care indefinitely, and increasing your healthcare facility's fatality rate. If you don't address fall risk, your patient outcomes will be seriously impacted.

Fall-related injuries result in a significant economic burden on not only your healthcare facility, but society as a whole. That's because those individuals who fall and suffer a disability, particularly older people, are at a major risk for subsequent long-term care and institutionalization.

Creating a fall prevention strategy is essential for minimizing fall risks and preventing injuries, long-term disabilities and fatalities - but is your healthcare facility's fall



As you review the checklist, make a note of whether each statement is true for your healthcare facility. If you answer 'no' or 'I don't know' to any of these statements then it's likely your fall prevention strategy needs to be reevaluated.

1. Are you measuring the success of your fall prevention strategy through data?
2. Are you taking steps to proactively identify high-risk patients?
3. Are you doing additional safety checks of high-risk patients?
4. Does your facility have bed alarms for extra safety?
5. Do you implement strategies to engage patients, and prevent them from wanting to get out of their bed?
6. Do you educate patients, and their family members, who have been assessed as high-risk about their fall-risk status?
7. Are you using risk management strategies that encourage behaviour change to prevent patients from walking without support?
8. Are you proactively removing environmental hazards for patients that are assessed as high-risk?
9. Does your healthcare facility invest in mobility aids and assistive devices for high-risk patients?
10. Are you using innovative technology to identify high-risk patients through gait analysis?

If you answered no to any of these questions, what are your next steps?

If you have read the preceding checklist and answered no to any of the questions, you may be wondering how you can improve your fall prevention strategy. Using innovative technology from Stepscan is a good start.

Our groundbreaking technology can significantly enhance your healthcare facility's fall prevention strategy and dramatically reduce the risk of falls for your patients. Our technology uses sophisticated footprint analytical software and proprietary sensor floor technology to analyse the gait of your patients.

By capturing reliable and accurate data about a patient's walking ability, Stepscan is able to accurately identify patients who are at a high risk of falling. Through these easy-to-interpret reports, your healthcare facility will gain significant time efficiencies for clinicians while at the same time vastly improving patient outcomes.

Ready to learn more about Stepscan's innovative fall risk solution? Read our ebook on fall risk prevention strategies or contact one of our professionally-trained and highly-knowledgeable experts today.



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