



Lesson 10.1

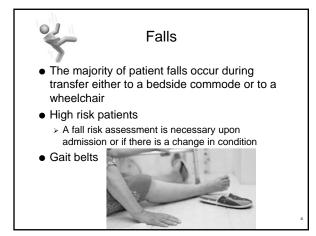
- 1. Summarize safety precautions to help prevent falls.
- 2. Relate specific safety considerations to the developmental age and needs of individuals across the lifespan.
- Identify nursing interventions that are appropriate for individuals across the lifespan to ensure a safe environment.
- Describe safe and appropriate methods for the application of safety reminder devices and nursing interventions when caring for patients.
- 5. Discuss nursing interventions that promote a restraint-free environment.

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Safe Environment

- This implies freedom from injury with a focus on preventing falls, electrical injuries, fires, burns, and poisoning
- The nurse must be aware of potential safety problems and must know how to report and respond when safety is threatened
- The responsibility for providing and maintaining a safe environment involves the patient, visitors, and members of the health care team
- Both protection and education are primary nursing responsibilities

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Infants and Children

- Ensuring the safety of the environment of infants and children requires protection of the child and education of the parents
- Accidents involving children are largely preventable, but parents and caregivers need to be aware of specific dangers at each stage of growth and development



Older Adults

- Changes associated with aging significantly affect the ability of older adults to protect themselves from injury
 - > Unsteadiness in gait causes falls
 - > Vision changes may affect the ability to see the height of stairs
 - > Vertigo may occur due to disease and/or



Safety Reminder Devices (SRDs)

- Numerous devices used to immobilize a patient or part of the patient's body
- Many facilities have adopted a restraint-free environment
- Long-term care setting is the permanent home for many residents and maintaining safety and dignity is important

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• Disadvantages of SRD use

Restraint-Free Environment

- Safety reminder devices (SRDs)
 - Focus should be to try alternative strategies before turning to use of SRDs (Box 10-3)
 - > Used mostly for patient safety
 - May be used to safeguard the continuity of treatment (i.e., removing tube feedings or drainage tubes)
 - Family teaching is important in understanding reason for SRD use

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Lesson 10.2

- 6. Discuss safety concerns in the health care environment.
- 7. Cite the steps to be taken during a fire.
- 8. Describe nursing interventions to treat accidental poisoning.
- 9. Discuss the role of the nurse in disaster planning and active shooter situations.
- 10. Discuss terrorism.
- 11. Discuss high-risk syndromes of bioterrorism and the role of the nurse.

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Workplace Safety

- The hospital environment is a source of potential safety hazards for health care workers.
 - > Biologic, chemical, and physical hazards

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- > Lasers
- > Blood and body fluids
- > Contaminated needles
- Radiation
- > Vaccine-preventable diseases

Fire Safety

- Fires in health care facilities are often related to smoking in bed or faulty electrical equipment
 An established fire safety program is mandatory for all health care facilities
- Fire prevention includes good housekeeping, maintenance, and employee discipline
 All employees should know the telephone
- as the location of the nearest firefighting equipment
- Health care workers must know their roles in the overall evacuation plan

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Accidental Poisoning

- Childhood poisoning is one of the major causes of death in children under 5 years of age
- The older adult is also at risk

 Changes associated with aging interfere with the
 - individual's ability to absorb or excrete drugs
 - > The older adult may share drugs with friends> Changes in eyesight may lead to an accidental
 - ingestion
- Prevention
- Poison Control Center



Disaster Planning

- Disaster situation
 - > An uncontrolled, unexpected, psychologically shocking event
 - Earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, tornados, bombings, arson, riots, and hostage-taking
 - Health care facilities expected to receive victims and survivors and to assist rescuers
 - External or internal disaster
- Active shooter situation



Terrorism

- A new potential environmental health threat is the possibility of a terrorist attack
 - > Biologic, chemical, or nuclear weapons



Bioterrorism

- This is the use of biologic agents to create fear and threat
- Health care facilities must be prepared to treat mass casualties from an attack
- Biologic attacks may be either overt (announced) or covert (unannounced)



