

Vanderbilt University Medical Center: Adult Outpatient Falls Documentation

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Background

- Lack of visibility and continuity of documentation of falls across all clinical areas and offsite.
- Increase consistency in EHR fall documentation to comply with policy.
- Lack of publications surrounding falls prevention in ambulatory settings.
- Desired outcome is to increase awareness and communication between clinics so information can be used to better identify patients at risk for falls and for fall prevention.
- If clinics know what patients are at risk for falls prior to their visit, they can decide as a clinic what fall precaution measures to implement.

Methods

- Multidisciplinary collaboration including HealthIT, Quality Manager, Informatics, and Executive Nurse Leaders.
- Approval: VNIC, Clinical Practice Councils.
- Endorsement from Falls Prevention Subcommittee, Ambulatory Quality and Safety Committee, Medical Assistant Council and Clinical Staff Council.
- Engagement of frontline clinical staff in build process.

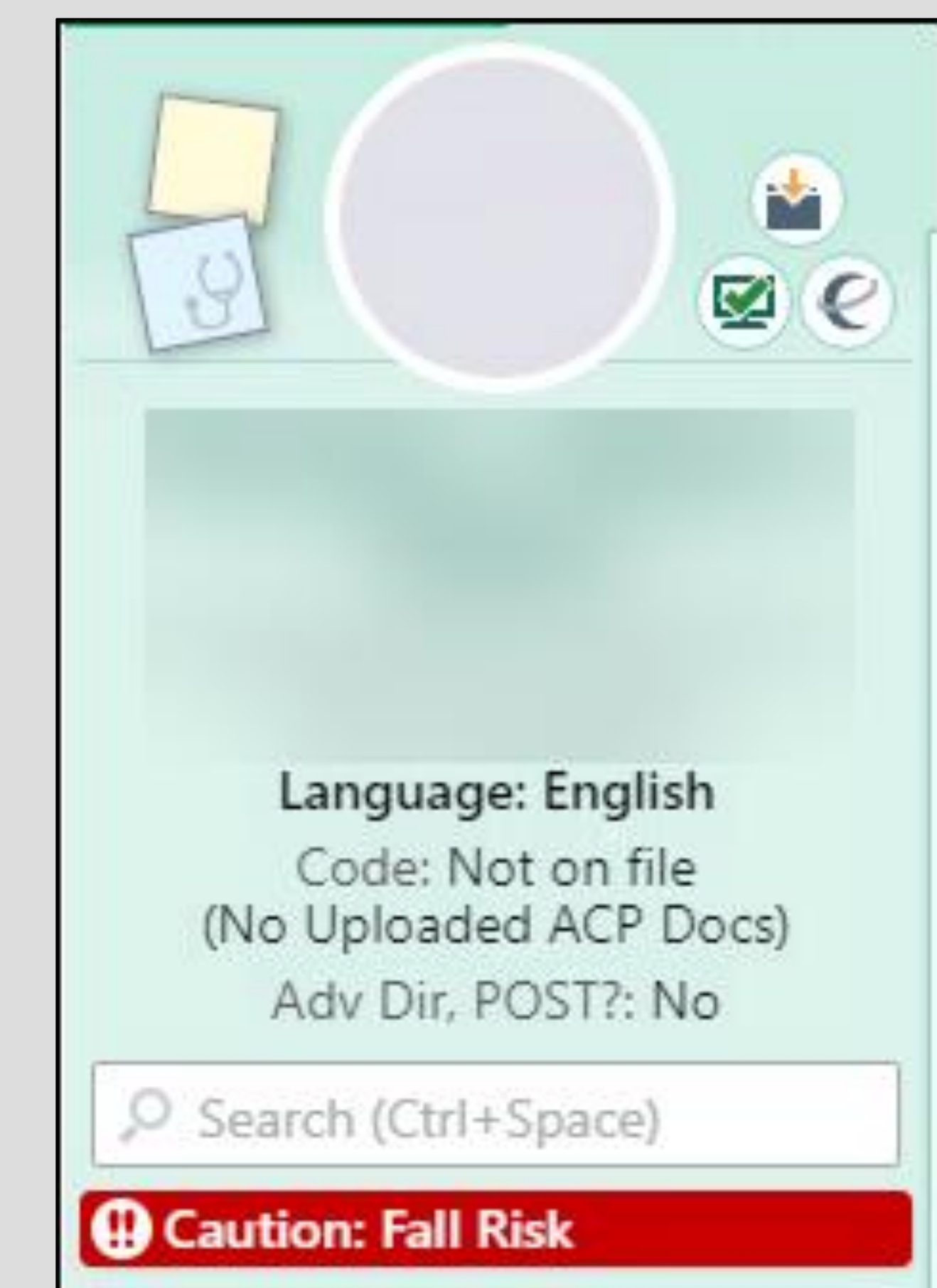
Implications

- Increased awareness of fall activity for all patients regardless of age.
- Opportunity exists to research and implement fall documentation in the outpatient setting.
- Improved data tracking.
- Improved patient safety and outcomes.

Patient Name	Age/Legal Sex	Fall Tracking
[Redacted]	68 y.o./M	🟢
[Redacted]	62 y.o./M	🟢
[Redacted]	53 y.o./M	🔴

eStar (EHR) Functionality

- Falls Tracking encounter-level SmartForm (available in Intake tab and More Activities menu).
- Storyboard banner for patients with a documented fall in the last year.
- Icon-based (green and red) column for the Outpatient Whiteboard.
- Print group added to SnapShot reports
- Synopsis view created.
- SmartLink to pull fall tracking info into progress notes.
- This tool is currently utilized in outpatient departments.



Conclusions

The ultimate goal of this project is to improve visibility of falls data across inpatient, ambulatory, and procedural/perioperative areas. Documenting falls information in discrete fields will enable the extraction and utilization of meaningful data for better outcomes.

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