Point-of-Care Risk Assessment

Why is this important?

Before and during resident care, the care provider should check resident’s current physical and mental function to ensure it matches their present care plan. Care providers are checking to confirm that care is safe to do at that point in time, for the resident and the worker. This is referred to as a “point-of-care risk assessment”.

What should care providers check for at the point of care?

Environment
- Do I have the proper equipment?
- Proper set-up?
- Is the area safe to do the task?

Worker
- Am I in a positive frame of mind?
- Am I using safe body movements to do the task?
- Do I have the skills?

Resident
- For All Care:
  - Is the resident ready and able to receive care at this time?
  - Have their care needs changed?
- For Transfers & Mobility:
  - Is the transfer safe to do?
  - Following the Mobility Decision Support Tool markers, can the resident:
    1. Cognition: follow direction?
    2. Sit balance: lean forward in sitting?
    3. Strength: lift buttock & clear surface?
    4. Stand balance: step or shuffle feet?

Care Plan
- Has the resident’s bedside care plan / ADL / kardex report changed?
- Do I know how care is provided for the resident?

What can care providers do if they think the task is unsafe?

Report resident changes by following your facility reporting process.

If care CANNOT be provided safely:
- Can something be done to provide safe care right now? e.g. use a ceiling lift.
- If not, make sure the resident is safe and talk to your supervisor about an alternative safe care plan.
- Follow the reporting process to communicate changes and update care plans.
- A re-assessment may be required.

Resources:

Visit WorkSafeBC.com (Publications) to view the video “Assess Every Time.”

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