

LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER GUIDELINES

ATTENDING STAFF MANUAL

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Subject: PATIENT FALL		Original Issue Date: 1/10/12	Policy # ASA 114
		Supersedes: 1/10/2012	Effective Date: 5/4/2022
Departments Consulted: Medical Administration	Reviewed & Approved by: Credentials and Privileges Advisory Committee Rules & Bylaws Committee Attending Staff Association Executive Committee	Approved by: (signature on file) President Attending Staff Association	

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the care of patients after a fall.

POLICY

The following policy will be implemented to support National Patient Safety Goals and Department of Health Service recommendations to:

1. decrease patient injury secondary to falls and
2. minimize harm to patients on therapeutic doses of anticoagulants.

PROCEDURE

Following an inpatient fall, the following must be documented:

1. Is there conclusive/documented evidence that the patient does not have the potential for head injury?
2. In the patient has the potential for head injury, the following procedures must be followed:
 - a) a complete physical examination, including a detailed neurological assessment will be performed by a physician and the results documented;
 - b) subsequent, interval examinations by appropriate personnel will be determined on a clinical basis;
 - c) Head CT will be ordered if there is a possibility of significant head injury, either by history, the physical environment in which the patient is found, or clinical examination;
 - d) if the patient is receiving therapeutic anticoagulant therapy, a head CT will be ordered in all cases of an inpatient fall in which head injury is suspected, regardless of the severity or clinical findings.

PROCEDURE DOCUMENTATION

1. Documentation by the responsible in-patient service must include results of the CT scan, if ordered, and follow up neurological findings in all cases.
2. Recommendations for additional therapeutic intervention and/or consultation must be documented and results of said consultations recorded and acknowledged.

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	ASA President's Initials: on file	

RESPONSIBILITY

Attending Staff
Housestaff
Nursing Staff
Support Services

REFERENCES

Joint Commission Standards National Patient Safety Goals

REVISIONS

January 10, 2012; May 4, 2022