



DEPARTMENT: Nursing Services	POLICY AND PROCEDURE DESCRIPTION: Falls with Witnessed/Participant Reported/Suspected Head Injury/Head Trauma
PAGE: 1 of 5	REPLACES POLICY DATED: 7/26/2023
DATE: 8/7/23	RETIRED: N/A
APPROVED: 8/7/2023	REFERENCE NUMBER: N/A
EFF. DATE: 8/7/2023	LAST REVISED/REVIEWED DATE: 7/26/2023

SCOPE: All George G. Glenner Alzheimer's Family Centers, Inc.®
PURPOSE: To ensure each Adult Day Program (ADP) and Adult Day Health Care Center (ADHC) has an established and active Falls Policy in place for the safety and well-being of all participants.
<p>POLICY: The Adult Day Program (ADP) and Adult Day Health Care Center (ADHC) provide care and services for participants diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias/memory impairments. In general, elderly individuals are at an increased risk in sustaining a head injury/head trauma related to a fall.</p> <p>Furthermore, individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias/memory impairments are at a greater risk in sustaining a fall due to the impact the disease has on their cognitive functioning.</p> <p>Falls are a serious issue for the elderly - leading to potential changes in their independence and abilities, as well as causing fatal and nonfatal injuries.</p> <p>The ADP and ADHC will follow the procedure outlined below related to any participant sustaining a fall that has resulted in a <u>witnessed/participant reported clear/obvious head injury/trauma</u>; <u>or has resulted in a participant reported/suspected unclear/nonobvious head injury/trauma</u>.</p>
<p>PROCEDURE: FOR FALLS WITH WITNESSED/PARTICIPANT REPORTED/SUSPECTED HEAD INJURY/HEAD TRAUMA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call "STAT" via walkie-talkie/radio for nurse(s) on duty. If nursing staff is not available, call "STAT" for Program Director (PD), Activity Coordinator (AC)/Assistant Activity Coordinator (AAC). 2. DO NOT MOVE THE PARTICIPANT and stay with the participant until help arrives. 3. On duty nurse(s) to complete a full assessment of the participant and the situation and provide direction to other staff members accordingly. (PD, AC, AAC, Program Assistant/PAs).



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4. Other staff members (PD, AC, AAC, PAs) will assist the nursing staff as directed and/or assist with transferring other participants away from the area to prevent them from becoming distressed and obstructing care.
5. After the initial assessment of the participant has been completed, the following actions will be taken by the nurse(s):
 - a. If the participant has a suspected/sustained a major/serious injury (see ***INJURIES** list below):
 - **Initiate 9-1-1 Emergency Services***
 - Provide appropriate first aid and other nursing care, as needed, until Emergency Services arrive and manage care of the participant.
 - Stand-by until participant is placed in the ambulance and confirmation has been received as to which hospital the participant is being transported to.
 - Contact/update the participant's primary caregiver/emergency contact on file to report the incident, care provided at the center, and which hospital the participant is being transported to.
 - **IF** the participant/primary caregiver/emergency contact refuses transportation to a hospital via the ambulance, obtain a copy of the AMA (Against Medical Advice) form from the EMTs/paramedics to be placed in the participant's chart. If no form is available, document the AMA in the Progress Note. The primary caregiver/emergency contact will need to come to the center immediately to pick up the participant.
 - Contact the participant's Primary Care Physician (PCP) on file regarding the incident, care provided at the center, the reason/need for Emergency Services, and any AMA situation (if applicable).



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- Complete the required ***Incident Report*** and ***Progress Note***. Note: PD to complete required **Licensing Report (Unusual Incident)**.
- Follow-up with the participant's PCP and primary caregiver/Emergency Contact to obtain an update on the participant's condition and to communicate the requirement for the center to receive a medical clearance before the participant can resume attendance. Note: A medical clearance is required for an AMA situation.

***INJURIES REQUIRING 9-1-1 EMERGENCY SERVICES:** Head injury/trauma (witnessed/participant reported/suspected), witnessed/participant reported/suspected head injury for a participant on anticoagulant regimen, airway/breathing problems, loss of consciousness/unresponsive, bleeding/extensive bruising, acute confusion, pain in limbs/chest/head, unable to freely (on command) move limbs.

- b. If the participant has a suspected/sustained a **minor injury** (see ***INJURIES** list below):
 - Provide appropriate first aid and other nursing care, as needed, including vital signs.
 - With assistance from other staff member(s), using the proper lift and transfer technique, assist the participant to stand and sit in a wheelchair. Transfer the participant to the Clinic for continuation of nursing care and monitoring (including vital signs).
 - Contact the participant's Primary Care Physician (PCP) on file to report the incident, assessments and care provided at the center, status of the participant, and to request further instructions/orders for medical care - if PCP deems appropriate. Report any AMA (Against Medical Advice) situation to the PCP.
 - Contact the participant's primary caregiver/emergency contact on file to report the incident, assessments and care provided at the center, status of the participant, relay information from



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conversation with the participant's PCP and instructions/orders provided by the PCP (if applicable), and request for the participant to be picked-up, if deemed appropriate to do so based on injury(ies) sustained and/or instructions/order from the PCP.

- **If** the participant remains at the center, continue to monitor the participant for any change in condition. **If** the participant experiences any change in condition that is concerning, initiate the proper action(s) (**9-1-1 Emergency Services or immediate pick-up by the participant's primary caregiver/emergency contact on file. Refer to 5.a.v. above**).
- Complete required **Incident Report** and **Progress Note**. Note: PD to complete required **Licensing Report (Unusual Incident)** **if** 9-1-1 Emergency Services was initiated.
- Follow-up with the participant's PCP and primary caregiver/emergency contact to obtain an update on the participant's condition and to communicate the requirement for the center to receive a medical clearance before the participant can resume attendance. Note: A medical clearance is required for an AMA (Against Medical Advice) situation.

***INJURIES:** Minor wounds to skin (including the head &/or face), signs of bruising, slight discomfort.

- c. If **no apparent injury sustained** by the participant: (***see list below**)
 - With assistance from other staff member(s), using the proper lift and transfer technique, assist the participant to stand and sit in a wheelchair. Transfer the participant to the Clinic for monitoring (including vital signs).



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- Contact the participant's primary caregiver/emergency contact on file to report the incident, assessment findings, and status of the participant. The participant may remain at the center and return to the assigned group unless the primary caregiver/emergency contact chooses to pick-up the participant from the center.
- If the participant remains at the center, continue to monitor the participant for any change in condition. If the participant experiences any change in condition that is concerning, initiate the proper action(s) (9-1-1 Emergency Services or pick-up by the participant's primary caregiver/emergency contact on file. Refer to 5.a.v. above). Complete required Incident Report and Progress Note.
- Follow-up with the participant's primary caregiver/emergency contact to obtain an update on the participant's condition, inquire if the participant was assessed and/or treated by a medical professional (PCP/Urgent Care/ER) and the outcome/results (if applicable). If appropriate, communicate the requirement for the center to receive a medical clearance before the participant can resume attendance. Note: A medical clearance is required for an AMA (Against Medical Advice) situation.

***No apparent injury** = no bruising, no pain, mobility is unaffected, no wounds/bleeding, no limb deformity.

REFERENCES:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/falls/index.html>
- <https://www.ncoa.org/article/get-the-facts-on-falls-prevention>