

## Fall prevention in acute care hospitals: a randomized trial.

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Dykes PC, Carroll DL, Hurley A, et al. Fall prevention in acute care hospitals: a randomized trial. JAMA. 2010;304(17):1912-1918. doi:10.1001/jama.2010.1567.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/fall-prevention-acute-care-hospitals-randomized-trial>

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Patient falls are among the preventable complications of hospital care for which hospitals no longer receive [additional reimbursement](#) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Experts in the field have [questioned](#) the wisdom of this policy; even though falls are common, little [evidence](#) has been available to guide fall prevention strategies. This randomized controlled trial offers an advance in fall prevention, as it demonstrated a significant reduction in falls by using a customized fall prevention strategy. The study also represents a novel application of [information technology](#) to improve patient safety, as the patient-specific fall prevention toolkit was developed with a novel software application drawing from the electronic medical record.