Problem: The rates of fall-related death among elders 65 and older rose significantly over the past decade. In 2005, 15,800 people 65 and older died from injuries due to unintentional falls. This is in light of the fact that more than one third of older adults fall each year. (Hausdorff, et.al, 2001) Falls are the leading cause of deaths and the most common cause of nonfatal injuries and hospital admissions for trauma in older adults. (CDC, 2006). Falls are expensive to the US healthcare system. The direct cost of all elder fall injuries totals $19 billion. (Stevens, et.al, 2006). By 2020, the annual costs of fall injuries are anticipated to reach $54.9 billion. (England, et.al., 1996) In 2008, President Bush signed into law the Safety of Seniors Act. The bill calls for more attention to the problem of elder falls and calls on funding organizations to provide financial support to investigate interventions to positively impact this issue.

Evidence: Evidence-based fall management guidelines can decrease the morbidity and mortality of elders.

Strategy: An evidence-based case management algorithm was developed to include the utilization of a Case Manager Fall Nurse Specialist to deliver fall management interventions to elders assessed to be at risk for falls or having had at least one fall.

Practice Change: The nurse specialist made home visits, performed initial fall management assessments, made referrals to physicians/therapist/etc., and developed plans of care to address reasons for falling.

Evaluation: Outcomes measured were the occurrence or reoccurrence of falls after the nurse specialist intervention.

Results: The initial pilot group demonstrated only a 16% fall occurrence rate. This is in contrast to a group with no intervention demonstrating an 80% occurrence rate.

Recommendations: This intervention needs to be generalized to a larger population to see if similar improvement is demonstrated.

Lessons Learned: Evidence-based interventions can decrease elder falls, thus improving outcomes.
**Bibliography:**


