



How effective communication help preventing fall incident in an orthopaedic setting

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Introduction

Fall incident accounts for majority of clinical incident in the hospital. Of course we cannot totally eliminate all the fall incidents, but high risk cases can be predicted and intervened for prevention. As fall incident is multi-factorial in which mobility and elimination are most significant in orthopaedic patients, much effort should be paid.

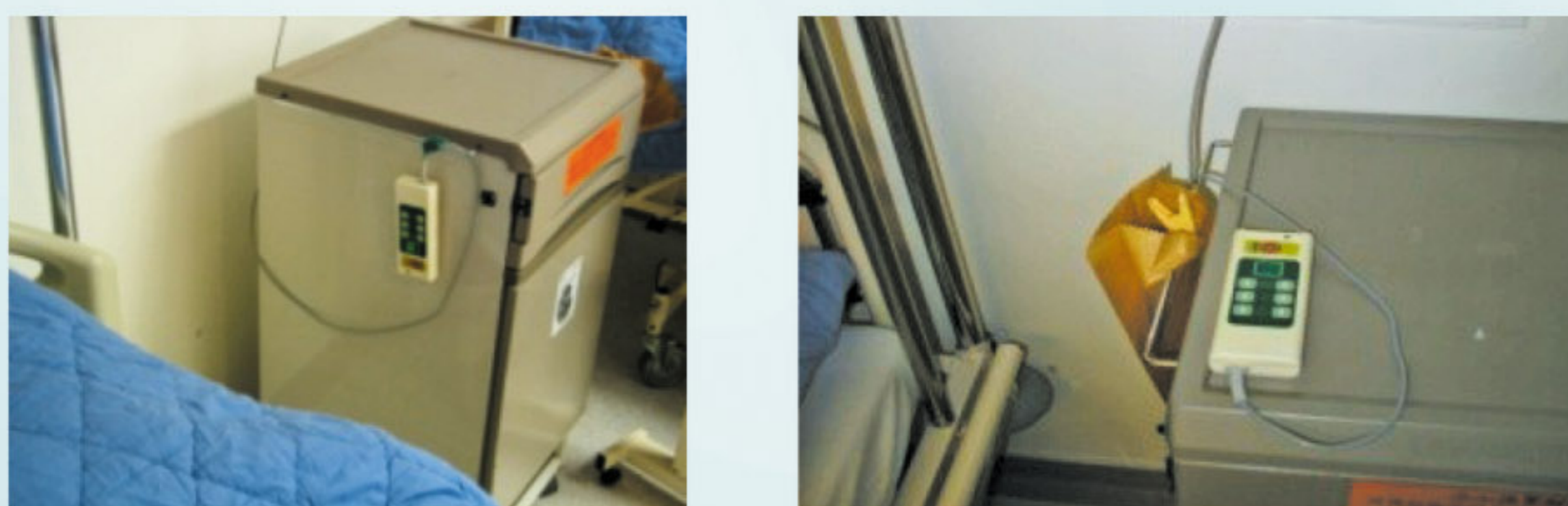
Implementation

1. Multi-disciplinary guideline on fall prevention was set up to emphasize the importance of cooperation and communication among disciplines.

2. Standardized bedside signage for fall prevention are posted up according to assessment done by nurse and physiotherapist. The fall risk, walking aids used and assistance required are clearly indicated so that all health personnel as well as patients can realize it easily.



3. Label the call bell button with a clear sign and provide it to each patient after instruction.



4. Provide fall alarm sensing pad to patient at high risk of fall and seek for patient's and relative's cooperation. The alarm is also integrated into the call bell system so that nurse can be easily alerted when patient getting out of bed.



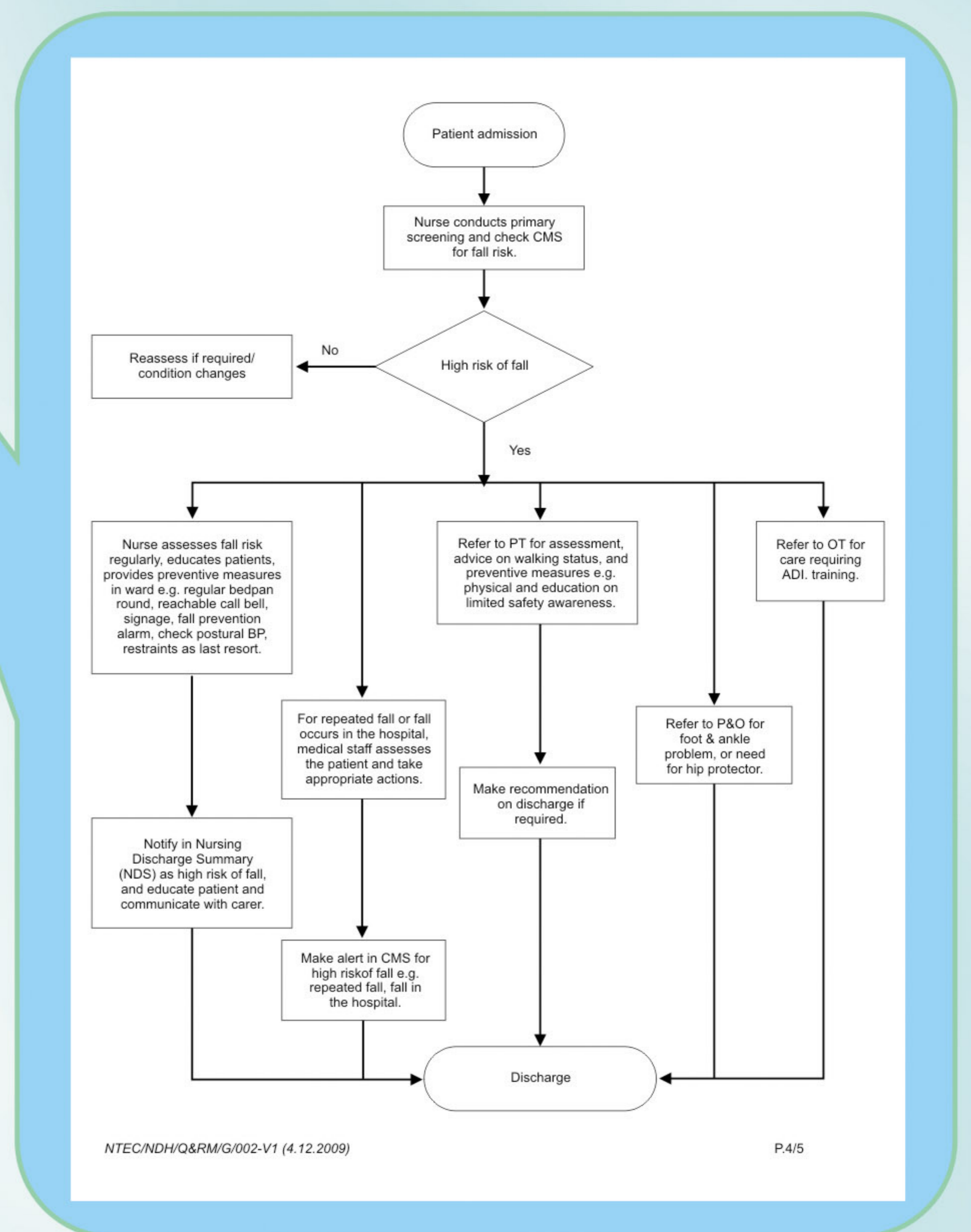
5. Provide regular bedpan round and remind patient to stay in bed by regular broadcasting through the PA system.

6. Environment risk screening was done and remedial actions were done accordingly, e.g. install handrails, fix the mobile trolley in toilets.



Conclusion

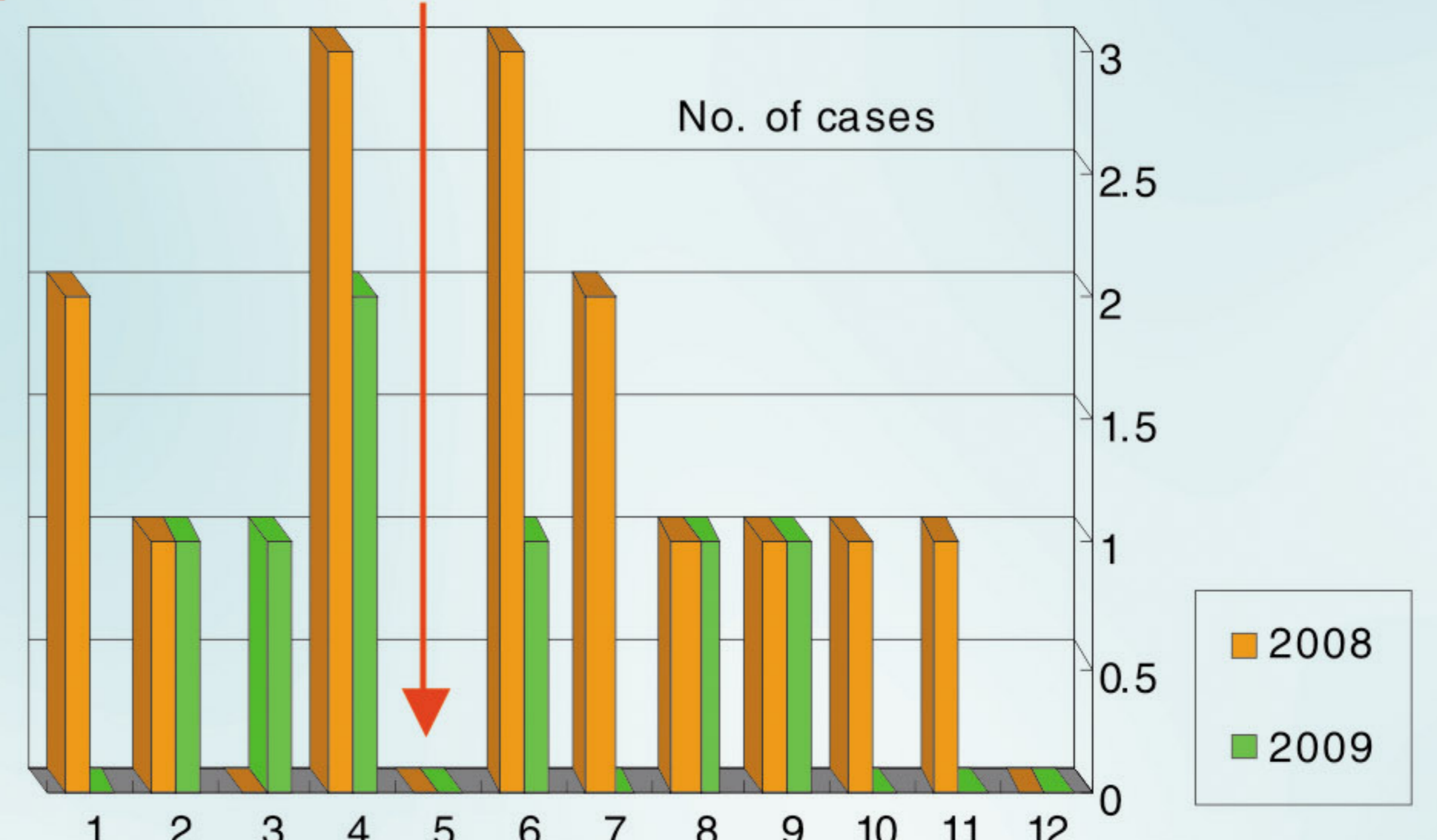
As fall incident is multi-factorial, cooperation and communication among disciplines and client is crucial to the success of prevention.



Result

8 months after implementation, there is significant decrease in fall incident from 0.759 to 0.319 when being compared with figure in 2008.

Implementation since May 2009



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