Patient falls are adverse events that are largely preventable. Patient falls can lead to patient injuries, increased health cost, extended length of stay and are a major motive behind lawsuits. (Lopez, Karen D.et.al) Safety culture is often cited literature as an important component of error prevention and increase patient safety. Medicine 1 adopted a safety culture for fall prevention for patients at risk for falls. An analysis of common factors related to the fall was done January through May 2014 on patients that had fallen. The Morse fall risk score for those patients were reviewed and did not always indicate that the patient was a risk for falls. The findings of this analysis revealed 6 of 15 falls for the time period of January through May 2014 on patients received from critical care areas. The Morse fall score did not always reflect a “high risk for falls” with these patients. A study on the predictive values of the Morse fall score by Frances Healy and Terry P. Haines (2013) demonstrated that the Morse fall score predictive value was less than satisfactory in certain age groups.

References:
2. Lopez K Gerling G, Cary M, Kanak M. Cognitive work analysis to evaluate the problem of patient falls in an inpatient setting. I am Med Inform Assoc 2010 ; 17:313-321
3. Zernicke M, County A. Prevention of Falls in Older Adults: Evidence Based Practice.

The results of the Medicine 1 Fall Prevention Initiative were positive. There was a decrease in the number of patient falls during the second half of the year, particularly in the patients received from the critical care units. The staff on Medicine 1 had an increased awareness of those patients with higher fall risk, thus implenting the proper preventive measures to ensure patient safety.