



Missouri Alliance for HOME CARE

Contact: Mary Schantz
573-634-7772
mary@homecaremissouri.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAHC'S MULTI-FACTORIAL FALL RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL VALIDITY ASSESSED

Jefferson City - The validity of the multi-factorial fall risk assessment tool (MAHC-10) developed by the Missouri Alliance for Home Care (MAHC) Fall Prevention Benchmarking Initiative has been tested. Home Health Agencies may now use this single tool for their OASIS required patient fall risk assessment.

OASIS-C requires a patient fall risk assessment to be conducted using a validated or scientifically tested multi-factorial assessment tool. Unfortunately, the validated or scientifically tested tools, such as the "Timed Up and Go" were not multi-factorial. The tool developed by MAHC was multi-factorial, but not validated.

Dr. Mary Calys, physical therapist with North Kansas City Hospital, Dr. Kendra Gagnon and Dr. Stephen Jernigan, both with the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science at the University of Kansas Medical Center, tested the validity of the tool in the fall of 2010. For more information about their findings, please review their research paper, A Validation Study of the Missouri Alliance for Home Care Fall Risk Assessment Tool, <http://hhc.sagepub.com/content/early/2012/09/04/1084822312457942.full.pdf+html>, which was accepted by *Home Health Care Management & Practice*, a peer reviewed journal.

Home Health Agencies will now be able to meet the OASIS requirements utilizing the MAHC-10 as an initial screen for fall risk, which if identified may warrant additional, more specific fall risk assessment. This single tool can be used with all patients, including bed-bound patients and those with severe mobility limitations, thereby meeting CMS criteria to mark a "yes" response on M1910.

Agencies may use the MAHC-10, including incorporating it into internal documents and computer systems, at no cost, however, we do require that proper credit be given to MAHC and that the content is not modified in any way. Agencies that choose to use the MAHC-10 Fall Risk Assessment Tool can also participate in a national patient fall benchmarking project. Some of the benefits of participation include being able to easily track your organizations fall record, individual fallers and to see how your agency ranks along with other similar agencies in the nation. The cost to participate in this national benchmarking project is minimal. For information contact MAHC at 573 634-7772 or email Carol Hudspeth (carol@homecaremissouri.org) or Mary Schantz (mary@homecaremissouri.org). Participation in the benchmark is voluntary but encouraged.

More information and the tool are available at: www.homecaremissouri.org

The Missouri Alliance for Home Care's (MAHC) mission is to support, promote and advocate for the home care industry as an integral component of the health care continuum. MAHC provides advocates on behalf of home health, in-home, hospice or other home-delivered services.

###