KEEPING YOUR BABY SAFE FROM FALLS WHILE IN THE HOSPITAL

Pennsylvania data shows that 288 babies were harmed or almost harmed because of falls and other events in Pennsylvania hospitals since 2004. In 2013 alone, 51 babies were dropped. Fortunately, most of the babies were not harmed in the events, but some did suffer skull fractures or other harm. All of the events occurred while the baby was in the care of the family.

S Some of the most harmful Pennsylvania events (e.g., suffocation, skull fracture) occurred when the mother fell asleep while feeding or caring for her baby. Do not be afraid to tell someone (nurse, family member) if you are too tired or otherwise need help to feed or care for your baby.

A All family and friends must be careful when handling the baby. Many of the Pennsylvania events happened because a family member fell asleep with the baby in their arms, the baby rolled off a sleeping family member's lap, or the baby was dropped while being transferred to its hospital crib.

F Findings show some of the most common maternal characteristics associated with newborn falls include the following: high level of fatigue, cesarean birth, and pain medication received by the mother in the last two to four hours.

E Enjoy your new baby with family and friends. Make sure you and anyone handling the baby is fully awake and aware of how easy it can be to fall asleep while holding the baby. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

A *Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory* article and educational toolkit on newborn injuries is available online at www.patientsafetyauthority.org

Scan with your mobile device's QR reader to access the newborn injury *Advisory* article and educational toolkit.

PATIENT SAFETY AUTHORITY

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