

# An AHP Benefit/Cost Assessment of Hospital Care Attendant Models

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**Abstract.** *Patient safety is a priority in the acute care hospital setting for nurses today. Patients who are at risk for adverse outcomes including falls, injury to self and others may need increased supervision. Medication and restraints can be common tools to help reduce these adverse outcomes. However, this can put patients at increased risk for falls, injury, and even death. To determine the best overall choice for an acute care hospital to prevent falls and injuries to patients, a decision-making assessment using the Analytic Hierarchy Process was used to evaluate alternatives.*

**Keywords.** Patient safety, decision-making, Analytical Hierarchy Process, Care Attendant.

## 1 Introduction

Patient safety is a priority in the acute care hospital setting for nurses today. Patients who are at risk for adverse outcomes including falls, injury to self and others may need increased supervision. Medication and restraints can be common tools to help reduce these adverse outcomes. However, this can put patients at increased risk for falls, injury, and even death (Solimine et al., 2018). Registered Nurses and Patient Care Technicians are faced with providing quality care to patients while keeping them as safe as possible at the same time. This can be challenging as some patients may require more attention than others and normal rounding may not be enough. Patients may need extra attention due to hallucinations, agitation, confusion, suicidal ideation, risk for harming others, disorientation, delirium, substance abuse, seizures, and eating disorders (Solimine et al., 2018). The use of care attendants allows for a staff member to be with a patient at all times. However, this can put a strain on staffing for the rest of the unit. The use of continuous video monitoring is a new technology that many hospitals have implemented to help keep staffing levels safe for patients and allowing patients to be watched without having someone physically in the room.

## 2 Structure

A simple evaluation approach can be used to determine the most suitable Care Attendant Approach Format, the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP). This would be the most efficient way to help organize and make the best decision to keep patients safe.

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