



National audit of inpatient falls 'how to' guide

(Autumn 2018)

Audit components

The audit will consist of two elements:

Organisational audit

- Background details: your trust (England) or health board (Wales)
- Policy, protocol and paperwork audit
- Leadership and service provision

Clinical audit

- Evidence of record of fall resulting in hip fracture
- Evidence of assessment and intervention in case notes

Audit standards

Primarily derived from NICE CG 161 (Falls: assessment and prevention) and NICE QS 86 (Falls in older people), with additional standards derived from evidence-based guidance from NICE, NPSA and the MHRA.

Organisational audit

Each trust needs to complete one organisational form. The organisational section focuses on trust/health board level data. Even if you have multiple hospitals within a trust/health board you will still need to collect this data at trust / health board level. The organisational section will therefore be the same for each hospital within your trust or health board. In the unlikely event that you do not have trust/health board wide policies or this data is not available by trust (or local health board), please contact us (falls@rcplondon.ac.uk or 020 3075 1551).

You may well need help from other colleagues in your organisation to complete this form. Hence, we will provide a word document, so that you can cut, paste and email the relevant questions to the people that hold this information (eg risk management, informatics team, local incident management system team, clinical governance.)

An individual with a leadership role in falls prevention (eg falls specialist nurse, consultant geriatrician) is likely to be most suitable to complete the organisational questionnaire.

Clinical audit

Evidence of assessment and intervention in case notes

Type of data: retrospective

Time period: Data for the case note reviews will be collected from 1 January 2019 onwards. If you do not have any patients meeting the sample criteria during the initial reporting period (1 January to 30 June 2019), you will be unable to participate in the clinical audit during this time period, however you can contribute by completing the organisational audit. This may be the case for some trusts /health board since the number of patients who sustain a hip fracture due to an inpatient fall in each trust/ health board in England and Wales is reported to be relatively low.

Which patients should be included in the audit?

You will be notified via email by the RCP audit team when a patient who has been in your hospital is flagged as being part of the new National Audit of Inpatient Falls. Patients included will be aged 60 years or above who sustain a hip fracture while an inpatient, as identified by the National Hip Fracture Database (www.nhfd.co.uk). You should aim to enter the data for any patient you are notified of within 30 days of receiving the notification.

Case note review (evidence of falls assessment and intervention in case notes)

Data are collected from all types of notes (medical, nursing, therapy and drug charts) entered onto paper data collection forms and uploaded later onto the webtool. The case note reviews would require input from clinical staff with falls prevention knowledge.

Data entry

For completing the organisational audit, you will be emailed a link to complete the organisational audit survey. This system is distinct and separate from the clinical audit.

For the clinical audit, once the data has been collected it should be entered into a webtool. We would advise audit leads to identify administrative support for local data entry.

Dates for data collection and input

Web log in details received by	21 December 2018
Organisational audit Data collection and data entry period	1-31 December 2018 (please note the organisational audit will be completed via an unique link emailed to each organisation and therefore web log details are not required)
Case note review/patient observations Data collection period	1 Jan 2019 ongoing Data collection will be via the crown informatics web-tool with audit questions being available as a printable PDF for local data collection on paper as required.
Data entry period opens	1 Jan 2019
Data entry period deadline for data to be included in first report	30 June 2019

References

NICE Clinical Guideline 161: *Falls: assessment and prevention of falls in older people* (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 2013).

NICE Clinical Guideline 103: *Delirium: diagnosis, prevention and management* (National Institute for health and Clinical Excellence, 2010).

NICE Quality Standard 86: *Falls in older people* (National Institute for health and Clinical Excellence, 2015).

NPSA: *Slips trips and falls in hospital* (National Patient Safety Agency, 2007).

Patient Safety First: *The How to guide for reducing harm from falls* (Patient Safety First, 2009).

MHRA Device Bulletin 2013: *The safe use of bed rails*. (The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, 2013).

RCP: Implementing FallSafe: care bundles to reduce inpatient falls (The Royal College of Physicians, 2009)

RCP: CareFall: Reducing inpatient falls risks and post fall management (The Royal College of Physicians, 2014)