

Policy for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Falls in the Southern HSC Trust

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Policy Checklist

Policy name:	Policy for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Falls for Adult Services within the Southern HSC Trust
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Directorate responsible for Policy:	Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs
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1.0	New Policy Document was shared members of the Trusts Falls Steering group for cascading and comments		Stephanie Hunter Sharon Love

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1.0 Introduction

A 'fall' is defined by The World Health Organisation (WHO) (2018) as an event which results in a person coming to rest inadvertently on the ground or floor or other lower level.

Any service user 'found' on the floor should be assumed as having fallen, unless confirmed as an intentional act.

Service user falls have both a human and financial impact. For individual service users, the consequences range from distress and loss of confidence, to injuries that can cause pain and suffering, loss of independence and in some incidents, death.

The cost for the Trust includes the provision of additional treatment, increased lengths of stay/care, complaints and in some cases, litigation.

There will always be a risk of falls in adult services within the Southern HSC Trust. It must also be acknowledged that preventing falls can be challenging at times. For example, service users may make choices or lack the capacity to engage in falls prevention interventions. A person's safety must be balanced against the person's right to make their own choices and decisions, these harmonised with the risks the person is prepared to take, alongside the maintenance of their dignity and privacy. Evidence, however, suggests that a reduction in falls can be achieved by learning from fall incidents, comprehensive and systematic risk identification and a co-ordinated multidisciplinary management process and interventions

The Trust aims to take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of adult service users and respects the rights of service users to make decisions about their own care and to promote their independence.

2.0 PURPOSE AND AIMS OF POLICY

This policy seeks to raise and improve awareness, provide guidance, training and support regarding the prevention, reduction and management of falls to **all** staff who work within the Trust. The term service user is used throughout this policy and is an encompassing term referring to patients, residents, tenants etc.

The aim of this policy is to-

- 2.1 Reduce the risk of falls in adult services
- 2.2 Minimise the risk of harm to service users who may fall
- 2.3 Inform and support multidisciplinary staff in their roles and responsibilities in relation to the prevention, reduction and management of falls
- 2.4 Set out the Trust's responsibilities for monitoring and acting upon Trust wide learning from service user falls
- 2.5 Ensure all multidisciplinary staff have the knowledge and skills to respond appropriately after a fall occurs and share the learning accordingly.

3.0 Objectives of this Policy

This policy is to assist staff to:

- 3.1 Reduce the overall incidence and severity of falls through a multidisciplinary approach.
- 3.2 Support delivery of safe and effective care including purchase of appropriate equipment and resources required.
- 3.3 Outline multidisciplinary staff roles and responsibilities in relation to the prevention, reduction and management of falls.
- 3.4 Ensure reporting and investigation of service user falls is performed appropriately by all multi-disciplinary staff

4.0 Policy Statement

This policy is to ensure the safety of service users, improve awareness of falls and promote a culture of falls prevention, reduction and management being **all multidisciplinary** staff's responsibility. The document aims to work alongside existing policies and strategies within the organisation. See Legislative section below.

5.0 Scope of Policy

This policy will apply to **all multidisciplinary** staff who work within the Trust. (This includes agency staff)

6.0 Roles and Responsibilities

General

The Trust is committed to supporting staff in delivering high quality, evidence-based care to all service users. All staff have a duty to provide safe and effective care to service users and are personally accountable for ensuring that their practice is based on the best available evidence. They are also responsible for ensuring their knowledge and skills are up to date and for participating in appropriate learning and practice activities that maintain and develop competence. In addition, registrant professionals must adhere to their professional codes of practice.

Trust Board and Senior Leadership Team: are responsible for ensuring the appropriate Health, Safety, and Risk management arrangements are in place throughout the Trust.

Directors of services:

- Have responsibility for ensuring the safe and effective delivery of services including implementation of this policy.

- They are also responsible for ensuring that a process is in place to effectively manage service user falls within their Directorates.

Assistant Directors of Services are responsible for:

- Ensuring that the requirements for implementing the policy are included in service action plans. This includes monitoring compliance reviewing of incident reports and sharing the learning within their area(s).
- Ensuring that multidisciplinary staff members are trained in the prevention, reduction and management of falls in line with the requirements of this policy.
- Cascading learning from falls in their own Directorate through Divisional and Trust wide governance groups and across other Directorates as relevant.
- Ensuring that monitoring of falls trends occurs and is updated as required.
- Ensuring that learning from Post Fall Reviews are shared locally and regionally as appropriate.

Senior Management: (refers to Heads of Services, Clinical lead, Operational and team managers)

- Must ensure that all multidisciplinary staff members within their Directorate are aware of this policy.
- Must monitor compliance with agreed standards within their individual Directorates and areas of responsibility.
- Contribute to work streams and committees including Quality Improvement Initiatives within the trust that will support the prevention, reduction and management of falls.

All Staff:

- Adhere to this policy and procedures relevant to your area of work.
- Identify and complete falls prevention training relevant to your role.
- Raise any concerns in relation to falls prevention and management with line manager.
- Ensure the Trust openness and honesty values are followed in relation to incidents involving falls.

All relevant Falls Prevention, Reduction and Management information and procedures can be found on the 'Falls' tile on SharePoint - [SHSCT Falls Service - Home](#)

7.0 Legislative Compliance, Relevant Policies, Procedures and Guidance

- Use of Bedrails for Inpatient and Community Setting SHSCT, 2022
- Moving and Handling of Plus size Person's policy, SHSCT, 2022
- NICE clinical guideline 161; Falls Assessment and prevention of falls in older people Issued: June 2013
- NICE clinical guideline 176 Head injury assessment and early management updated 2019
- Moving and Handling Policy SHSCT
- Risk Management Policy, SHSCT 2021
- World Health Organisation WHO – January 2018
- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) Policy 2018 (TP 42/08)
- Mental Capacity Act - [Mental Capacity Act \(NI\) 2016 Staff Resource - 1 \(pagetiger.com\)](#)
- SHSCT Mental Capacity Act Tile on SharePoint - [Mental Health & Disability - MENTAL CAPACITY ACT MAIN PAGE](#)

8.0 Equality & Human Rights Considerations

This policy has been screened for equality implications as required by Section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Using the Equality Commission's screening criteria, no significant equality implications have been identified. Similarly, this procedure has been considered under the terms of the Human Rights Act 1998 and was deemed compatible with the European Convention Rights contained in the Act.

9.0 Sources of Advice & Further Information

- National Service user Safety Agency (NPSA) www.npsa.nhs.uk
- NPSA - The third report from the Service user Safety Observatory. Slips, trips and falls in hospital PSO/3 SUMMARY
- Public Health Agency [Falls prevention](#)
- Southern Trust SharePoint Falls tile including NQI Falls Bundle <http://sharepoint/nma/falls/SitePages/Home.aspx> (link to share point as live option instead of including many hard copy appendices)