

FOI 2068

19.01.2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

What are the current In-Patient Fall Prevention Solutions Used?

- Completion of falls risk assessment on admission, post fall, following a change in the patient condition and /or weekly
- Completion of bed rails assessment on admission, post fall, following in a change in the patient's condition and /or weekly
- Completion of Manual Handling risk assessment, post fall, following in a change in the patient's condition and /or weekly
- Ensuring that the patient is placed in the most appropriate position in ward as per identified need e.g. close to toilet facilities, close to nursing station for closer observation.
- Explanation and how to use the call bell on admission and reminders throughout stay
 - Observation by staff to ensure that call bell is within reach.
- Mobility aids – provision as required and ensuring that the aid is close to the patient at all times
- Environment – clean, tidy and clutter free to reduce the risk of slip trips and falls.
- Enhanced care observation (1:1 observation / co-horting / close observation)
- Intentional rounding – regular checks on patients
- Symbols for at risk of falling – Falling Star allocated to patients deemed at risk of falls (above bed) fall risk symbol on flow board.
- 'Yellow Packs' available for use – yellow blanket and non-slip socks for patients deemed at risk of falls.
- Education and training in relation to falls prevention and management

What are the current In-Patient Fall Detection Solutions Used?

The following falls assistive technology is available within the Trust. However there is no standardisation across the Trust.

- Bed, chair and floor exit alarms

What Bed Exit Solutions are currently in use for In-Patient Care?

There is no standardised bed exit alarms used within ward in the SHSCT.

If any fall prevention / detection solutions are used, how do they alert to a fall / potential fall?

The falls assistive technology currently used within the SHSCT has an alarm built into the system to alert staff.

How many falls (Per year) were recorded in the last 5 year?

Please find details of the number of Patient Falls in a hospital setting from Apr 2018 to Sept 2023.

18/19 - 1,240

19/20 - 1,171

20/21 - 1,313

21/22 - 1,586

22/23 - 1,512

23/24 - 773 (Apr 23 → Sept 23)

How many, if any resulted in patient deaths?

With regard to those falls which resulted in a patient death over the same time period <5 were captured on the Datix Risk Management system. This information was obtained by running a report on those Patient Falls coded as a 'Catastrophic'.

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, in line with this duty, the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the redacted information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018.

How many have resulted in litigation?

This information is not centrally recorded. Unfortunately we are unable to provide the information you have requested as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It has been estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to locate and retrieve the requested information. In order to obtain this information and it would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Are you currently following a fall prevention strategy?

There is no current SHSCT Falls Prevention Strategy. However the following procedures and policies are in place

- SHSCT Falls Prevention Policy – please see attachment 1
- Falls Prevention Pathway – please see attachment 2
- Regional Falls Prevention leaflet – please see attachment 3
- Falls Management Spinal Pathway – please see attachment 4

Which team is responsible for In-Patient fall prevention?

All staff who work with patients who are at risk of falls must maintain their knowledge and skills regarding falls prevention and management. They are also responsible for identifying falls risk factors and implementing measures to reduce the risk of a patient falling to the lowest level reasonable practicable.

The Corporate Nursing Team has recently appointed a new Inpatient Falls Coordinator. She will be responsible for the strategic implementation of falls prevention and management within the SHSCT inpatient settings, and will also provide expert advice and guidance to staff

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