



Emergency Department Falls Risk Screen Project

February 08

newsletter



Welcome...

WELCOME TO THE FIFTH ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER. THE NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE ED STAFF MEMBERS AND RELATED PERSONNEL WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE ED FALLS RISK SCREEN PROJECT.

Timetable for upcoming months

	Feb	Mar	Apr
<i>Evaluation components audits, focus groups, patient interviews, etc.</i>			
<i>Development of resources and training materials for state forums</i>			
<i>Delivery of dissemination workshops</i>			
<i>Final Report</i>			

Project Progress

We are now well underway with the evaluation component of the project, to determine the effectiveness of the implementation model. We are completing the final round of random audits of patient medical records, and patient interviews.

We have also completed final rounds of focus group meetings with ED staff members and other key stakeholders. The aims were to identify the barriers and facilitators to the effective widespread implementation of the screen within each participating ED. Analysis of the key themes from the focus groups will be used to refine the screening and management program. The evaluation outcomes will be available in April 2008.

State Forums and Dissemination

The project team is organising Australia-wide workshops to disseminate project findings and learning in March and April. These workshops will demonstrate falls risk screening resources developed by the project team and practical implications related to implementing the risk screen in an ED setting. Clinicians, researchers, policymakers and community organisation

representatives are invited to comment on these findings and to discuss current practice and the potential to apply the project processes and resources more widely. Feedback received from these workshops will be summarised in the final report to the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

Place	Date	Location
Brisbane	Wed 19 March	Skills Development Centre, Level 4, Block 6, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Herston
Perth	Wed 26 March	Injury Control Council of Western Australia, City West Lotteries, House 2, Delhi Street, West Perth
Adelaide	Thu 27 March	Meeting room, Level 2, Citicentre building, Department of Health, 11 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide
Sydney	Wed 2 April	Clinical Excellence Commission, Reserve Bank Building, Level 3, 65 Martin Place, Sydney
Launceston	Fri 4 April	Ravenswood Community Centre, 6 Prossers Forest Road, Ravenswood, Launceston
Melbourne	Fri 11 April	Meeting Room, Department of Human Services, 50, Lonsdale St, Melbourne

More Upcoming Events

3RD AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND FALLS PREVENTION (ANZFP) CONFERENCE
12 - 14 OCTOBER 2008
GRAND HYATT, MELBOURNE VICTORIA
HOSTED BY: AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND FALLS PREVENTION SOCIETY

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Relevant Article

MULTIFACTORIAL ASSESSMENT AND TARGETED INTERVENTION FOR PREVENTING FALLS AND INJURIES AMONG OLDER PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY AND EMERGENCY CARE SETTINGS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS.

Gates, S., Fisher, J. D., Cooke, M. W., Carter, Y. H. and Lamb, S. E. (2008) *BMJ*, 336, 130-3.

Objectives: To evaluate the efficacy of multifactorial assessment and targeted intervention programs in the prevention of falls and fall-related injuries among older people in primary care, community care, or emergency care settings.

Methodology: A systematic database search identified 1633 relevant references, of which 19 randomised or quasi-randomised control trials satisfied inclusion criteria for review. Included studies evaluated interventions designed to prevent falls or fall-related injuries in primary care, community care, or emergency care settings, and those targeting hospital inpatients or residential care facilities were excluded. Information was extracted on number of fallers, fall rate, time to first fall, number of recurrent fallers, fall-related injuries, hospital admissions, unscheduled health service contact, move to institutional care, health-related quality of life, physical activity or mobility, and death.

Results: The Evidence of the benefit of multifactorial assessment and targeted interventions for preventing falls among older people in primary care, community care, or emergency care settings was limited. No clear reduction was found in the number of people experiencing at least one fall, or the number having fall-related injuries. No differences were found in emergency department attendance, hospital admissions, move to institutional care, or death. However there were many included studies that had knowledge or referral only as the only intervention, and if these were left out, subgroup analysis showed that interventions that actively provide treatments, as opposed to providing only knowledge or referral, were found to be more effective, though this result should be treated with caution, and warrants further investigation. There was a wide diversity in the range of programs interventions and falls risk investigated. Methodological quality of the studies varied, and many had insecure allocation, no blind outcome assessment, poor reporting, and lack of data on important outcomes, including fall-related injuries.

Further large scale, high quality randomised control trials are required in these settings to detect clinically significant effects on important outcomes such as fall rates and fall-related injuries.

Staff Profile

Melissa Russell
Bphysio



Melissa completed her physiotherapy degree in 1996. Since that time she has worked in a variety of fields of physiotherapy in Australia and the UK. Melissa started at NARI at the end of 2002. Over this time she has been involved in the implementation of physical activity programs for older people in residential care and the development of the "Well for Life" resource. Through NARI and the Department of MEGA Epidemiology at the University of Melbourne Melissa is due to finish her PhD in 2008. Melissa's research interests include falls prevention, balance and physical activity.

Gihan de Mel
BBiomedSc.



Gihan recently joined NARI as a research assistant after completing Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences degree course at Monash University. His research based undergraduate scholarly contributions, recent work experience in healthcare sector and IT skills have provided a strong basis for his contribution to NARI.

Gihan is currently working on Emergency Department falls screening project and the Older Australian Twins Study. Gihan also administers NARI's website.



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

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ANY COMMENTS OR IDEAS ON THIS NEWSLETTER?
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