



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health and Ageing**

## **Emergency Department Falls Risk Screen Workshop**

### **Background**

Older people who present to an emergency department with a fall are at an increased risk of falling, yet there remains no gold standard tool for falls risk screening and assessment. The Falls Risk Assessment for Older People (Community version) – the FROP-Com – tool was developed by the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) several years ago. The FROP-Com has been shown to have acceptable accuracy in classifying level of falls risk, and to have high reliability when reapplied by different people, or over time. The FROP-Com has received widespread promotion, and is currently being used in a number of clinical and research settings.

Recent findings from our research at the National Ageing Research Institute using the FROP-Com have resulted in the development of an abbreviated screening version of this falls risk assessment tool. Called the **FROP-Com screen**, it consists of three brief questions to identify whether older people presenting to Emergency Departments after a fall are at high risk of future falls.

With funding from the Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing, implementation of the evidence based FROP-Com screen is currently being piloted in four Victorian Emergency Departments namely: the Sandringham Hospital, the Austin Hospital, Goulburn Valley Health Service and Bairnsdale Regional Health Service. This 12-month project, nearing completion, involves:

- scoping current falls prevention practices and referral processes in the Emergency Departments;
- developing best practice guidelines; and
- implementing training and support in implementation of the guidelines and the FROP-Com screen.

The implementation of the FROP-Com screen is supported by evidence based falls prevention guidelines developed for the emergency department and an education package for staff on falls prevention and the use of the FROP-Com Screen. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation model, including random medical record audits, patient interviews and staff focus groups, is being finalised.

Further information of the research project as well as project outcomes to date can be accessed from

[http://www.nari.unimelb.edu.au/research/research\\_falls\\_service.htm](http://www.nari.unimelb.edu.au/research/research_falls_service.htm)



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### **Workshop plan**

We plan to disseminate and share the study final outcomes and learnings from the four pilot ED sites, each with its unique profile, in a half-day workshop in 6 states. Clinicians, researchers, policymakers and community organisation representatives are invited to comment on these findings and to discuss current practice and potential application of the project processes and resources more widely. Feedback received from workshop participants will be summarised in the final report to the Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing. The workshop covers:

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Length</b>
<b>Rationale for screening falls in ED (program logic, policy into practice)</b>	15 min
<b>Literature Review (community dwelling, ED, single vs multiple interventions)</b>	15 min
<b>Falls prevention guidelines in ED</b>	10 min
<b>Falls risk screening tool development</b>	15 min
<b>Screening methods, subject, setting</b>	15 min
<b>Evaluation of screening implementation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Consultation with key stakeholders</b></li><li>- <b>Training and education resources</b></li><li>- <b>Medical records audits and patients' interviews</b></li></ul>	45 min
<b>Tea break</b>	30 min
<b>Role play of falls risk screen process in ED setting</b>	20 min
<b>Lessons learnt:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>How to fit amongst other ED risk screens</b></li><li>- <b>Cultivating links between ED and other health services</b></li></ul>	30 min
<b>Concluding remarks and where to from here</b>	10 min
<b>Discussion</b>	35 min

NARI has sought assistance from key falls prevention persons from each state to secure a venue and to identify potential workshop participants. Limited funding towards providing afternoon tea and hiring venue for approximately between 20-50 people is available.



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Potential workshop participants including:

- Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
- AIHW
- Emergency Departments staff
- Care Coordinators
- General Practice Divisions
- Australian College of Emergency Medicine
- Royal Australian College of General Practice
- Council on the Ageing (COTA) & National Seniors
- Senior Citizens' Associations
- Retirement Village Associations
- Aged Care Association Australia
- Aged and Community Services Australia
- State based organisations eg Aged and Community Care Victoria
- Community nursing organisations
- HACC providers
- ANZSGM

**Tentative dates:**

Place	Date	Venue	Contact person
Brisbane	Wed 19 Mar 1-5pm	Skills Development Centre, Level 4, Block 6, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Herston, QLD 4029	Paul Vardon/ Joanne Butler Patient Safety Officer/Falls Prevention Special Projects Patient Safety Centre Mobile 04470 543823 <a href="mailto:Joanne_Butler@health.qld.gov.au">Joanne_Butler@health.qld.gov.au</a>
Perth	Wed 26 Mar 12.30pm onwards	Injury Control Council of Western Australia, City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth	Andrea Lomman/ Holly Scott Project Officer Injury Control Council of Western Australia (Inc) City West Lotteries House 2 Delhi Street, West Perth 6005 T: (08) 9420 7212 F: (08) 9486 7955 E: <a href="mailto:hscott@iccwa.org.au">hscott@iccwa.org.au</a> W: <a href="http://www.iccwa.org.au">www.iccwa.org.au</a>



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<b>Adelaide</b>	<b>Thu 27 Mar</b> 12.30pm to 5.00pm	Meeting room, Level 2, Citicentre building, Department of Health, 11 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide	Michele Sutherland Falls Prevention Project Officer Clinical Systems, Safety and Quality team Department of Health PO Box 287, Rundle Mall Citicentre, 11 Hindmarsh Square <a href="mailto:Michele.Sutherland@health.sa.gov.au">Michele.Sutherland@health.sa.gov.au</a>  v.au T: 08 8226 9599 M: 0413 009331 F: 8226 7602 Mondays and Tuesdays
<b>Sydney</b>	<b>Wed 02 April</b> 10.30am – 2.00pm	Clinical Excellence Commission, Reserve Bank Building, Level 3, 65 Martin Place, Sydney.	Claire Monger/ Lorraine Lovitt Leader, NSW Falls Prevention Program Clinical Excellence Commission Ph: 02 6656 5326 Fax: 02 6656 7010 Mobile: 0422 002 091 <a href="mailto:lorraine.lovitt@cec.health.nsw.gov.au">lorraine.lovitt@cec.health.nsw.gov.au</a> au
<b>Launceston</b>	<b>Fri 4 Apr</b> 10am - 2.30pm	Ravenswood Community Centre, 6 Prossers Forest Road, Ravenswood, Launceston	Andrea Petrie Injury Prevention Policy and Program Officer Population Health Priorities Department of Health & Human Services 3rd Floor, 25 Argyle Street, Hobart TAS 7000 GPO Box 125, Hobart TAS 7001 Ph: (03) 6222 7387 Fax: (03) 6222 7252 Email: <a href="mailto:andrea.petrie@dhhs.tas.gov.au">andrea.petrie@dhhs.tas.gov.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au">www.dhhs.tas.gov.au</a>
<b>Melbourne</b>	<b>Fri 11 Apr</b>	Meeting Room, Department of Human Services, 50, Lonsdale St, Melbourne	Carol Pyke, DHS VIC 9096 1335



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**Further information:**

Dr Irene Blackberry  
Research Fellow  
FROP-COM Screen Project Manager  
Public and Preventive Health Division  
National Ageing Research Institute  
PO Box 31 Parkville 3052 Australia  
Tel: (03) 83872596 (Tue) or 8344-3373  
Fax: (03) 83872153  
Email: [i.blackberry@nari.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:i.blackberry@nari.unimelb.edu.au)