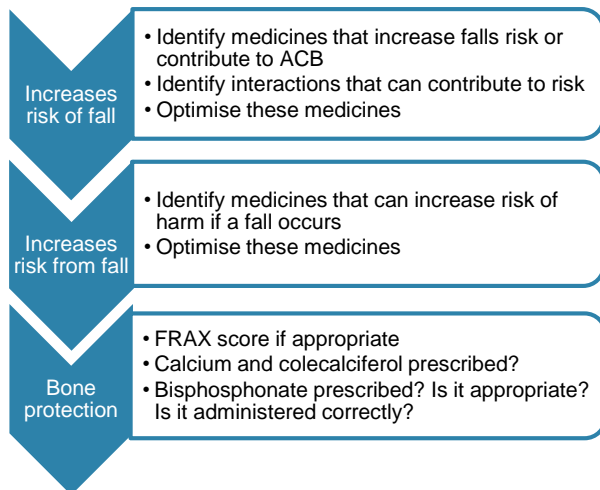


Can we increase the number of pharmacist falls reviews through an educational intervention?

BACKGROUND

- In 2018, 2198 per 100,000 people aged over 64 had an emergency hospital admission related to falls⁽¹⁾
- The World Health Organisation highlighted that falls were the second leading cause of accidental or unintentional injury deaths worldwide.⁽²⁾
- Falls cost £235m a year and reduce quality of life.⁽³⁾
- Medication falls reviews prevent falls in the elderly.^(4,5)
- A review of incidents within the Trust highlighted several falls patients who had not had a medication falls review or anticholinergic burden (ACB) score calculated in previous admissions.
- This study aimed to identify whether providing education and support materials to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians would increase the number of inpatient falls reviews.

Figure 1: The steps of a medication falls review.



ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

A baseline audit was completed on four wards over two weeks to identify numbers of falls reviews completed pre-intervention. To prevent bias participants were asked to record all clinical activities.

INTERVENTION

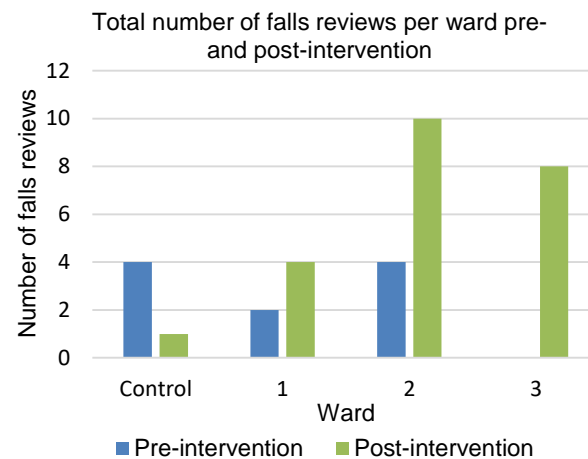
A falls review guide was developed and a teaching session delivered to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

Key messages:

- Calculate the ACB score during medicines reconciliation.
- Technicians to identify patients needing a falls review.

MEASUREMENT OF IMPROVEMENT

Figure 2: Graph to show the number of falls reviews completed across the wards pre- and post-intervention.



The control ward did not receive the intervention.

CONCLUSIONS

- The increase in falls reviews on the intervention wards, and decrease on the control ward, imply the intervention had a positive impact.
- Due to the low numbers of pharmacy technicians at the teaching session, a further session was held outside the data collection period.

Limitation 1

- Each audit only covered two weeks, a longer timeframe would be necessary to measure any meaningful change.

Limitation 2

- No measurement of opportunity was obtained, so any impact on those potentially missed was not assessed.

Limitation 3

- Only the impact of pharmacists explored, still scope to ensure completion of the remaining elements of a falls review.

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