


Slips, trips and staying still

Standardising the reporting of falls and pressure ulcers to enable monitoring and reduction


Ruth Wright
CHKS



www.chks.co.uk


NHS South Central's Patient Safety Federation

- NHS South Central's Patient Safety Federation's top priorities: no needless falls and no needless skin breakdown
- Key objectives:
 - to standardise the reporting of falls and pressure ulcers across a health economy
 - to enable accurate monitoring of these incidents
 - to enable effective measurement of the efficacy of interventions to reduce them



The results

- Standards data collection enabled effective benchmarking of incident rates between organisations and process maps enabled comparison of each model of practice which showed:
 - where processes could be streamlined
 - which approaches were more successful in reducing the incidence of falls and pressure sores
- Working groups of clinical and non-clinical staff used the process maps and information gathered to establish best practice, common pathways and agreed metrics for future data collection



Lessons learnt

- Falls group distributed 20 key principles for Falls Management and Prevention
- Pressure ulcer group developed a training programme on assessment and recording of tissue viability
- A single organisation-wide database highlighted unexpected variations in practice, resources and capacity
- Comparative analysis of highlighted crucial differences across the region
- Pooling of information enables effective dissemination of good practice

