

Executive Corridor
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100
Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 03.17.06

Direct line: 01325 743700
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Email only

31 March 2017

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 6 March 2017 in relation to the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (Trust). We are dealing with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested information regarding patient falls. Specifically you asked for:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could you provide me with the following information, in relation to Darlington Memorial Hospital:

1. The number of patient falls that occurred in hospital in November 2016

Answer: 55 falls

2. The number of these falls that had a pre-falls multifactorial risk assessment

Answer: All of the falls had a pre-falls risk assessment

3. The factors that are assessed in a pre-falls multifactorial risk assessment

Answer: The falls assessment includes;

- Fall in the last twelve months or had fall leading to admission.
- Has the patient had a fall since admission.
- Does the patient try to walk alone, although unsteady / unsafe.
- Does the patient have a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease or stroke.
- Is the patient confused or have an AMTS <7 or have dementia or / and delirium.
- Are the patient or relatives anxious about falls.
- Using your professional judgement is the patient at risk of falls.
- Do they require standard bed / high low bed / mattress on the floor.

A care plan is also available

- Ensure the call bell is within easy reach and patient knows how to use it. For patients who cannot use the nurse call bell ensure an alternative is available e.g. hand bell
- Assess using risk assessment tool, if likely to fall from bed ensure the bed is at the lowest height, unless this would reduce mobility or independence, consider high / low bed
- Footwear, slipper check for secure fit, non-slip soles or trailing laces, ask family / carer to provide safer replacements if necessary
- Medication
- Individual care rounds
- Eyesight, ensure glasses and hearing aids are worn or within easy reach. Pen test at the end of the bed to be completed
- Environment and visibility
- review and undertake lying and standing blood pressure and urinalysis
- MDT and communication
- Information to providers

4. Please could you categorise the number of falls by outcome in terms of harm severity?

Harm levels	Number of falls
1 - No Harm	30
2 - Minor (Minimal Harm)	24
3 - Moderate (Short Term Harm)	1
Grand Total	55

5. Please could you categorise the number of falls by ethnic group?

Answer: All of the patients were classified to the ethnic group White British

6. Please could you categorise the number of falls by age?

Answer: The ages can be subdivided as follows;

- 20-30 = 2
- 30-40 = 1
- 40-50 = 0
- 50-60 = 4
- 60-70 = 6
- 70-80 = 21
- 80-90 = 12
- 90+ = 8

1 unable to be determined

7. Please could you categorise the number of falls by time of day?

The falls occurred at;

00:00 – 04:00 = 13

04:00 – 08:00 = 12

08:00 – 12:00 = 7

12:00 – 16:00 = 4

16:00 – 20:00 = 11

20:00 – 00:00 = 8

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust website.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

The Chief Executive
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX

If, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.gov.uk.

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer