Fact Sheet

# 2015 Revision of the SA Health Falls and fall injury prevention and management policy directive and guideline

Government of South Australia

SA Health

This fact sheet is to inform SA Health clinical employees about amendments to the Falls and fall injury prevention and management policy documents as a result of a scheduled revision process in 2015.

The Policy Directive and Guideline are part of a suite of documents that guide actions to prevent and manage the risk of falls and harm from falls across SA Health services.

They were first developed in 2010 and have since been through several processes of review, seeking and collating feedback, and evaluating their implementation.

These are available on the Falls Prevention section of the SA Health website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/fallsprevention

## What has changed?

The Policy Directive is in the format now required by the Office of the Chief Executive.

The Guideline has been retired and relevant content is reflected in the Policy Directive, and in the new tools.

The Policy Directive and toolkit now comprises:

> **FALLS AND FALL INJURY PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY DIRECTIVE**

- A new inclusion into the policy is the principle 3.5 'Care is provided in a way that minimises the use of restrictive practices, while effectively managing risk to the consumer'. This is reflected, where relevant, through the policy and tools, particularly Tool 3.

- Section 4.3.4 of the policy directive clarifies the status of documents produced as part of the incident review and analysis under the Health Care Act 2008 (SA Part 7 and Part8 s72(1)(b)). This is also included in Tool 6.

> **TOOL 1 -** Example Terms of Reference (TOR) for a health service's Fall Prevention Committee. This has been revised with minimal change.

> **TOOL 2 -** When and how to do fall risk screening, assessment, care-planning and discharge planning.

This new tool provides recommendations for:

- when and how to do screening and/or assessment of a consumer's risk of falls or harm from falls in a variety of settings across SA Health

- the process of planning and reviewing care, and discharge, including consumer and carer input.

> **TOOL 3** - Safe use of bed rails

This new guide assists SA Health staff to:

- identify when the use of bed rails can be avoided

- identify situations when the use of bed rails is the least restrictive and least harmful option for ensuring that a consumer and others are safe

- implement risk control measures to minimise any potential harm

- identify unsafe or inappropriate use of two full length bed rails on hospital beds, barouches, trolleys and similar

- identify when the use of bedrails is restraint, and therefore requires reporting into Safety Learning System (SLS) as a patient safety incident.

> **TOOLS 4 and 5**: Tool 4 - Reporting a patient fall incident into Safety Learning System (SLS) – Topic guide, and Tool 5 - Reporting a patient fall incident – frequently asked questions (FAQs).

These new tools together provide clear guidance on reporting incidents into Safety Learning System after a patient fell, or had a near miss fall. Tool 4 is a one page quick guide and Tool 5 provides illustrative scenarios and examples to clarify when and how to report.

> **TOOL 6** - Post fall team review

This tool has been revised and has minimal change. This tool centres around a flowchart to guide this process.

For a summary of the contents and purpose of the tools, refer to the Fact sheet - A guide to using the policy directive and toolkit.

## For more information

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