

Update on AFFINITY National Falls and Bone Health Project – May 2019

Welcome to this first 2019 update on the AFFINITY National Falls & Bone Health Project. We plan to update you on a quarterly basis, to keep you informed of progress. If you have any suggestions on content or want further information please contact – Eileen.Moriarty@hse.ie

About AFFINITY (2018-2023):

This project has been set-up to;

- increase awareness of the preventable nature of falls
- empower older people, communities and health and social care providers to reduce the risk and rate of falling where possible
- reduce the severity of injuries, and
- promote the best possible outcomes for people who have suffered a falls-related injury.

The project, which is collaboration between the HSE and the State Claims Agency, aims to coordinate the development of a comprehensive falls and fracture prevention system. Such a system involves all parties focussing on a common agenda of reducing falls and fractures and their impacts. This can be achieved by bringing together and integrating primary prevention, secondary prevention and rehabilitation as well as measuring outcomes collectively.

Further information about the AFFINITY project can be found at: www.hse.ie/affinity

Priorities for 2019:

The following priorities have been identified for 2019

- **Framework / Guidance for Integrated Falls and Bone Health Services:**
The AFFINITY project team is developing a guidance for integrated falls services at community health organisation (CHO)/ hospital level which is intended to be ready for consultation mid-year. This work is progressing through AFFINITY's Community Residential and Independent Living / Community Supported work streams.
- **Evaluation:**
We are working with the Centre for Effective Services (CES) on planning evaluation at two levels.
 - The overall project evaluation and
 - a standardised approach to measuring and monitoring existing and new falls and bone health services as they are commissioned.
- **2nd AFFINITY Symposium:**
Following on from the inaugural AFFINITY Symposium in October last year, the **2nd AFFINITY Symposium will be held on: 18th September 2019. Venue: Chartered Accountants House, Dublin.** Registration will open shortly.
- **Service User Materials Development:**
The development of Falls & Bone Health information for service users is a priority for 2019. As well as ensuring people have access to accurate and useful information, the material will

be published online and will be a resource for Falls & Bone Health services around the country. If you have already developed any relevant information e.g. leaflets, posters etc. and would be willing to share it in the interest of producing the national set of resources please forward to Marguerite.Healy@hse.ie or by post to: Marguerite Healy, Office of the Head of Strategy and Planning, Services for Older People & Palliative Care, HSE community Services Building, Rathass, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Recent Publications of Interest:

- Major Trauma Audit 2017 –
<https://www.noca.ie/documents/major-trauma-audit-national-report-2017>
- Implementing Integrated Care for Older Persons in Ireland –
https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/29601c_505486cc6a1c472b8c23ee10ae29ce4c.pdf
- Centre for Ageing: Raising the Bar on Strength & Balance –
https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/Raising-the-bar-on-strength-and-balance_0.pdf
- National Osteoporosis Society: Strong, Steady & Straight. Quick Guide –
<https://theros.org.uk/media/100224/strong-steady-straight-quick-guide.pdf>
- Reducing harm from falls- recommended evidence based resources 2019 including a resource on interventions to reduce falls and harm from falls in older people with cognitive impairment
<https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/reducing-harm-from-falls/recommended-resources/2019-evidence-base/>