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Institute of Neuroscience
Newcastle University
Campus for Ageing and Vitality
Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5PL

Developing an intervention for fall-related injuries in dementia (DIFRID): Qualitative component (work package 2)

You are being invited to take part in a research study. This leaflet explains why the research is being done and what taking part will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. You can then talk to the researchers before you decide whether to go ahead.

Why is this study being done?

People with dementia (PWD) living in their own home are almost 10 times as likely to fall as older people without dementia, and are more likely to sustain a fall-related injury. Following an injurious fall, PWD are more likely to be hospitalised, are hospitalised for longer and are more likely to require increased care. There is currently little evidence about how best to support PWD with a fall-related injury.

The overall aim of this study is to assess whether it is possible to design a complex intervention to improve the outcome of fall-related injuries in people with dementia living in their own homes. The study includes a systematic review, an observational study to understand current care pathways, qualitative work to explore the needs of PWD with fall-related injuries, and the development of an intervention which will be piloted in the final phase of the study.

Your potential involvement

In this part of the study, we are trying to understand existing services and care pathways. We would therefore like to spend a shift with you observing your sessions with patients.

It is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to agree to take part. If you are interested, please inform the person who gave you this leaflet and ask them to pass your details to the research team. We will then be in touch in the next few days to answer any questions and, if you are willing to take part, agree a convenient date. On that day, we will ask you to complete a consent form.

To carry out this observation, we would also need the permission of the patients seen on the day. We would ask you to inform each patient about the observation, give them an information sheet if appropriate and seek verbal consent. It is up to individual patients to decide whether or not to agree. We understand that some patients may be unable to consent, for example if they are unconscious. In these situations, we would approach a family member if appropriate or rely on your professional opinion as to whether we should observe.

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Is the study confidential?

Yes, your participation in the study is entirely confidential. When we write up the findings, your name will not be used, and we will make sure that you cannot be identified.

However, if we observed anything that could put you or other people at risk, we would have to act on this information by informing the appropriate authorities.

Your details will be stored securely at Newcastle University and will only be used to contact you about this research project. Representatives from the NHS Trust sponsoring the research (Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) may need to look at the data collected to check that the study was carried out correctly. All will have a duty of confidentiality to you.

The study has been approved by the National Research Ethics Service Committee North East – Newcastle and North Tyneside 1.

Funding

This project is funded by the National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment Programme (project number 13/78/02).

How to contact the research team

This observation will be carried out by Miriam Boyles or Alison Wheatley. If you need to get in touch with them, they can be contacted at:

Miriam Boyles	☎	0191 208 7963	miriam.boyles@ncl.ac.uk
Alison Wheatley	☎	0191 208 5147	alison.wheatley@ncl.ac.uk

If you have any concerns or complaints about the research, we will do our best to resolve them. Please contact the project leader, Dr Louise Allan, via the project secretary, whose details are below.

Further information

Project secretary:

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