Royal College of Physicians | National Audit of Inpatient Falls (NAIF)

Beyond hip fracture

The 2026 NAIF report on 2025 data – a summary for patients and carers

1. More patients included

The aim of the National Audit of Inpatient Falls (NAIF) is to improve care for patients in hospital by helping to prevent falls and ensuring they receive the best possible care if a fall does happen. Before 2025, NAIF only collected information about patients who broke their hip after falling in hospital.

From 2025, the audit expanded to include more patients who were injured after a fall in hospital, rather than only those who broke their hip. This now includes any patient who:

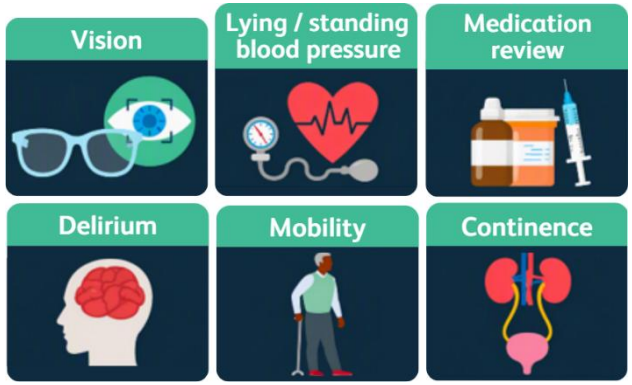
- ☑ suffered **any fracture, head injury or spinal injury** as a result of a fall in a hospital
- ☑ was **aged 65 or older** at the time of admission
- ☑ was **admitted to an inpatient bed (or in the emergency department)** at the time of the fall

2. Key findings from 2025 and what they mean for patients

Preventing falls in hospitals

Only **1 in 3 patients** received at least five of the recommended checks to help prevent falls before they fell and were injured.

When patients aged 65 and over are admitted to hospital, they should receive a minimum of **six checks** to assess their risk of falling (see right).





Care received after a fall in hospital

Significant improvements are still needed to improve the care patients receive after a fall, especially **checks for injuries** and **examinations by a healthcare professional**. These checks help prevent further harm to the patient after the fall.

The data shows that patients with fractures to the **pelvis, spine or ribs** may receive poorer care than patients with other injuries.

A new measure to improve pain relief after a fall

Prompt pain relief after a fall helps reduce the patient's discomfort and supports their recovery.

This report introduces a new Key Performance Indicator (KPI) measuring whether patients receive pain relief within 30 minutes of a fall.

In 2025, only **4 in 10 patients** received this standard of care.



3. Next steps

Including more patients gives NAIF a clearer picture of where care can be improved and helps hospitals focus on changes that will benefit more patients in the future.

In this report, NAIF has identified **four areas** for healthcare improvement, referred to as '**spotlights**'.

Based on report findings, these highlight where hospitals can focus improvement activity to support better patient care.

Read the full report: Beyond hip fracture.

This resource is co-produced with the Patient and Carer Panel (PCP), part of the Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme (FFFAP).

Beyond providing data, NAIF supports improvement to patient safety by developing a range of resources for clinicians and patients.