

Hip Fracture Registry to be launched in New Zealand

An important new health initiative is being launched which will help the over 4,000 New Zealanders who suffer from a hip fracture annually. These fractures can be devastating for sufferers with over 50% losing their ability to live independently, many going into long-term care and 25% suffering an early death. This problem is likely to increase rapidly as New Zealand's 1 million baby boomers age.

Osteoporotic fragility fractures exert a tremendous burden on older New Zealanders, the national economy and our health and social care system. The Hip Fracture Registry will allow for better analysis of national data, improve quality and consistency of care after a hip fracture through the use of a set of key quality indicators. These have been developed by New Zealand clinicians using other international registries, notably the Swedish and the UK's hip fracture registries.

This clinically initiated and led programme is supported by ACC, the Ministry of Health and the Health Quality and Safety Commission NZ (HQSC).

ACC is supporting the New Zealand Hip Fracture Registry as part of a programme of work to improve services for older people. This programme aims to reduce the incidence of falls and fractures amongst older people, improve treatment and rehabilitation for those who have fallen and to reduce their risk of falling or fracturing again. This should mean our older people are able to live independently for longer.

The National Hip Fracture Database (NHFD) in the United Kingdom, which was established in 2007, has enabled benchmarking of implementation of best practice guidelines. Through adherence to these guidelines a recently published external validation of the UK NHFD suggests that better care has resulted in lives being saved. New Zealand hopes to replicate this success.

There is still a lot of work ahead, but we have had a great start with the positive pilot in 4 Northern DHBs. Progress so far includes Australasian consensus guidelines, draft Clinical Care Standards and a high performing IT platform. With continued enthusiasm from clinicians, political will and funding support the registry team expects rollout of the Hip Fracture Registry to happen over the next two years.

More information can be obtained by contacting: Flora Gilkison at NZOA
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Details and Guidelines are available from www.anzhfr.org

Acknowledgements

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The Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care (in collaboration with the ANZHFR Steering Group and HQSC) for development of the draft Clinical Care Standards which will be finalised and published in 2016.

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The Northern Regional Alliance (NRA) under the leadership of Dr Alan Davis with support from Chris Pegg and her colleagues at NRA to undertake the Northern Region Pilot evaluation of the technology.

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