

Supervisors: Professor Pip Logan

Themes: Older people,

Keywords: Falls, crises avoidance, ambulance services, community, rehabilitation

Applications invited all year round

Self funded students only

Project title: Evaluation / Implementation of the Nottingham Falls Rapid response team across the East Midlands

Falls in older people are very common and can lead to illness, fractures, fear, immobility and pain. Many older people who fall call an emergency ambulance as they are either unable to get up from the floor or would like to be checked over in case they need medical attention. Many of these people are not transferred to hospital as they can be treated successfully in the community. There is evidence that this can reduce the number of subsequent falls (Logan 2010)

In Nottingham we have set up the Falls Rapid Response Team which is delivered by the East Midlands Ambulance Service in partnership with Nottingham CityCare Partnership and has been commissioned by Nottingham City Commissioning Group since April 2013. It is a dedicated service which responds to calls where the patient has fallen. The team is made up of an EMAS Paramedic and Crisis Response Team Assistant Practitioner both of whom have developed extra skills in treating patients who have fallen. They have a specialised vehicle equipped with lifting and handling equipment to aid the movement of patients. As well as treating the patient, this team use an emergency, health and social care assessment to identify the causes of the fall and then take action to reduce the chances of another incident happening. For example, they can arrange for handrails to be fitted, trip hazards to be dealt with, initiate a medicine review by the GP or review carer and social care support. They also leave patients with information on the availability of health and social care support services.

This study will firstly look at the new service and see how it works and why it has been so successful. The student will then use implementation research activities to work with other falls teams across the East Midlands to get the service more widely available.