Improving Post-Fall Documentation and Reporting in a Dementia Ward
A Two-Cycle Audit in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

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Background

- Falls are a major cause of morbidity in older inpatients.
- Dementia increases fall risk due to cognitive impairment, reduced mobility, and poor risk awareness.
- NHS GG&C policy requires DATIX reporting, EMIS documentation, and post-fall medical review.

Aim and Standards

To assess and improve compliance with post-fall documentation following inpatients falls.

Standards:
DATIX completed
EMIS documentation completed (including NEWS)
Post-fall medical review template completed

Methods

Retrospective two-cycle audit in a Dementia inpatient ward (Balmore Ward)
Cycle 1:
Nov–Dec 2023 | n=11 falls
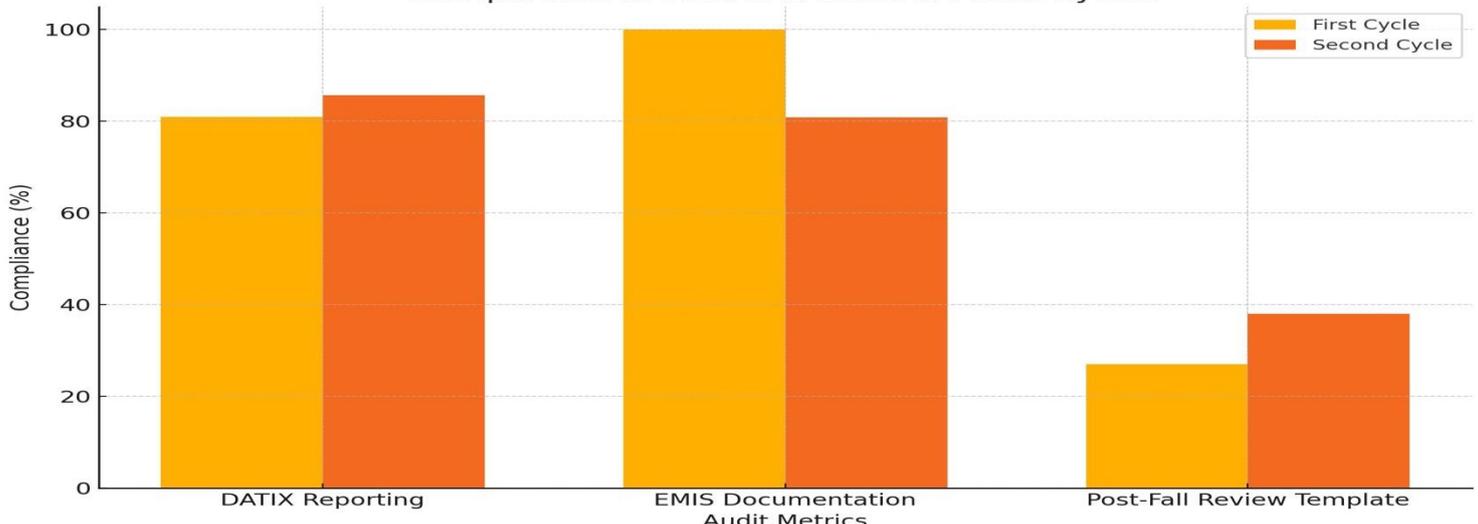**Cycle 2:**
Jun–Jul 2024 | n=21 falls
Interventions:

- Introduction of a post-fall checklist.
- Promotion of a standardised EMIS post-fall documentation template.

Discussion

- Simple ward-based interventions led to modest improvements
- Documentation gaps remain, particularly in **NEWS recording**
- Findings highlights the need for sustained staff education and system reinforcement

Comparison of First and Second Audit Cycles

Conclusion

Partial improvement was achieved ; however post-fall documentation remains inconsistent. Further staff education and a third audit cycle are planned.