



Glossary of terms: Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme

120-day follow up: enquiring about patient progress 120 days after discharge, important for measuring patient related outcomes.

4AT: bedside questionnaire which helps practitioners to detect delirium.

Academy of Medical Royal Colleges: the coordinating body for the UK and Ireland's 24 medical royal colleges and faculties. We ensure that patients are safely and properly cared for by setting standards for the way doctors are educated, trained and monitored throughout their careers.

Acute setting: an active treatment for short-term needs which is often performed in a hospital setting or doctor's office for quick, urgent treatment.

Aerosol generating procedures: a medical procedure that can result in the release of airborne particles (aerosols) from the respiratory tract when treating someone who is suspected or known to be suffering from an infectious agent transmitted wholly or partly by the airborne or droplet route.

Alfacalcidol: a type of vitamin D which will help your body absorb the calcium that you eat or drink in your diet.

American Society of Anaesthesiologists (ASA) score: used to assess and communicate a patient's pre-anaesthesia medical co-morbidities. Used with other factors (eg, type of surgery, frailty, level of deconditioning), it can be helpful in predicting perioperative risks.

AMTS: abbreviated mental test score; a series of questions used to rapidly assess elderly patients for the possibility of dementia.

Anaesthesia: means "loss of sensation". Medicines that cause anaesthesia are called anaesthetics. Anaesthetics are used during tests and surgical operations to numb sensation in certain areas of the body or induce sleep.

Anti-osteoporosis therapy: the treatment and prevention of fractures, which may involve using medicines to strengthen bones.

Arthritis: a common condition that causes pain and inflammation in a joint.

Audit programmes: provide local trusts with individual benchmarked reports on their compliance and performance, feeding back comparative findings to help participants identify necessary improvements for patients.

Benchmarking: a comparison of performance metrics to national/regional performance and performance of other hospitals.

Best MSK Health programme: NHS England has launched a new programme with the aim of sustaining the delivery of evidence-informed, personalised, high-quality integrated healthcare of value to all.

Best Practice Tariff (BPT): a national price paid to providers and is designed to incentivise high quality and cost-effective care. The aim is to reduce unexplained variation in clinical quality and to encourage best practice.

Biconcave: having concave faces on both sides.

Bisphosphonates: a medicine used to treat osteoporosis (and sometimes osteopenia). Bisphosphonates slow the rate that bone is broken down in the body. This maintains bone density and reduces the risk of a broken bone.

Bone clinic: provides specialist services for osteoporosis and other metabolic bone diseases. Rheumatologists and metabolic medicine specialists work together to diagnose, scan and give appropriate treatment where needed.

Bone density scan (DXA): a test that assesses whether you have normal bone density, low bone density (also referred to as osteopenia), or osteoporosis.

Bone health card: a resource produced by the RCP to aim to improve the patient experience when returning home following a fragility fracture and discussing with primary care.

British Orthopaedic Association (BOA): the surgical specialty association for trauma and orthopaedics in the UK.

Calcitriol: a form of Vitamin D3 (vitamin D helps the body absorb calcium); used to treat and prevent calcium and bone disease in patients whose kidneys or parathyroid glands (glands in the neck that release natural substances to control the amount of calcium in the blood) are not working normally.

Care Quality Commission (CQC): the independent regulator of all health and social care services in England.

Cf: used in writing when you want the reader to make a comparison between the subject being discussed and something else.

Clinical audit: a process that has been defined as "a quality improvement process that seeks to improve patient care and outcomes through systematic review of care against explicit criteria and the implementation of change."

Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs): clinically-led statutory NHS bodies responsible for the planning and commissioning of health care services for their local area. Also known as local commissioners.

Clinical Lead: also known as the lead practitioner who is responsible for the quality of the data submitted to audits for their respective site. They are also in charge of data governance and ensuring only the appropriate people have access to the data, as well as being the first point of contact for the audits.

Commission: commissioning is the process by which health and care services are planned, purchased and monitored.

Commissioning round: the process by which major funding decisions are taken, including the allocation of new money coming into the NHS which takes place annually.

Community care-based services: one aim of integrated care is to enable people to receive care closer to home, with services focused on keeping them well and avoiding unnecessary hospital care.

Conservative Management: conservative treatment is the alternative to surgery. It involves a long period of bed rest and is not often used but may be necessary if surgery is not possible – for example, if someone is too frail to cope with surgery, or if they did not go to hospital straight after the fracture happened and it has already started to heal.

Consortium: a group of people or firms who have agreed to co-operate with each other.

Constipation: bowel movements are tough or happen less often than normal.

Consultant: senior doctors that have completed full medical training in a specialised area of medicine and are listed on the GMC's specialist register. They have clinical responsibilities and administrative responsibilities in managing SAS and junior doctors.

COVID-19: an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, may also be referred to as 'coronavirus'

Crown dependencies: three island territories in the British Islands that are self-governing possessions of the British Crown: the Bailiwick of Guernsey, the Bailiwick of Jersey and the Isle of Man.

Delirium: sudden confusion.

Dementia: the name for problems with mental abilities caused by gradual changes and damage in the brain.

Demographics: the statistics relating to the people who live in that place or society.

Densitometry services: a service to diagnose osteoporosis and monitor bone mineral density.

Emergency Room Services: emergency rooms serve patients with acute needs. Often, these needs include accidents, injuries, or sudden medical needs.

Endocrinology: the study of medicine that relates to the endocrine system, which is the system that controls hormones. Endocrinologists are specially trained physicians who diagnose diseases related to the glands.

Endplate: a vertebral end plate is the transition region where a vertebral body and intervertebral disc interface with each other.

Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme: a national clinical audit run by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) designed to audit the care that patients with fragility fractures and inpatient falls receive in hospital and to facilitate quality improvement initiatives.

Femur: thigh bone.

Fracture Liaison Service Database: a clinically-led web-based national audit of secondary fracture prevention in England and Wales commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) as part of the Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme (FFFAP).

Fracture Liaison Service: Fracture Liaison Services (FLS) systematically identify people aged 50 and older who have had a 'fragility fracture', with the aim of reducing their risk of further fractures.

Fragility fracture: a fracture that occurs after low trauma (equivalent to a fall from standing height or less), excluding skull, face, fingers and toes.

Frailty: in medicine, frailty defines the group of older people who are at highest risk of adverse outcomes such as falls, disability, admission to hospital, or the need for long-term care.

Geriatric: branch of medicine that deals with the problems and diseases of old age and the medical care and treatment of aging people.

Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT): a national programme designed to improve the treatment and care of patients through in-depth review of services, benchmarking, and presenting a data-driven evidence base to support change.

Governance meeting: governance in healthcare is referred to as clinical governance, “a system through which NHS organisations are accountable for continuously improving the quality of their services and safeguarding high standards of care by creating an environment in which excellence in clinical care will flourish”.

Health Economist: a profession whereby knowledge of economics and healthcare are used to evaluate how resources are used within the health service. By analysing statistics and using data models, they influence public health policy to help improve patient care.

Health inequalities: differences in the status of people’s health; the term is commonly used to refer to differences in the care that people receive and the opportunities that they have to lead healthy lives, both of which can contribute to their health status.

Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP): was established to promote quality in healthcare, and in particular to increase the impact that clinical audit has on healthcare quality improvement.

Hemiarthroplasty: when the femoral head is replaced with a prosthesis (false part). The femoral head is the rounded top part of the thigh bone (femur) that sits in the hip socket.

Hip fracture: cracks or breaks in the top of the thigh bone (femur) close to the hip joint.

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES): a database containing details of all admissions, A&E attendances and outpatient appointments at NHS hospitals in England.

Implant: a damaged hip joint is replaced with an artificial one (known as an implant).

Inpatient: a person who has been referred to hospital for an operation or test and needs to stay overnight.

Integrated Care Systems (ICS): partnerships between the organisations that meet health and care needs across an area, to coordinate services and to plan in a way that improves population health and reduces inequalities between different groups.

Intracapsular fracture: a fracture inside the socket of the hip joint.

Key performance indicator (KPI): a type of performance measurement, that evaluates how well a particular activity is performing in relation to the set-out goals.

Local health board (LHB): are responsible for planning and delivering NHS services in their area. NHS Wales is organised into administrative units known as local health boards.

Malnutrition: physical weakness and bad health caused by having too little food, or too little of the types of food necessary for good health

Mean (also known as average): adding two or more amounts together and dividing the total by the number of amounts

Medical Director: a member of the board of an NHS organisation with a clinical background.

Methodology: a system of methods and principles for doing something, for example for teaching or for carrying out research.

Multidisciplinary team (MDTs): are the mechanism for organising and coordinating health and care services to meet the needs of individuals with complex care needs. The teams bring together the expertise and skills of different professionals to assess, plan and manage care jointly.

Multi-factorial risk assessment (MFRA): for the purpose of NAIF, this identifies factors known to increase the risk of falls with the intention that action or an intervention is prompted to minimise these risks. The risk factor assessments are shared in more detail [here](#).

Musculoskeletal: of, relating to, or involving both musculature and skeleton.

National Audit of Inpatient Falls (NAIF): a clinically led, web-based audit of inpatient falls prevention care and post fall management in acute, mental health, community and specialist trusts in England and Wales. NAIF aims to improve inpatient falls prevention and post fall care through audit and quality improvement.

National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP): commissioned by HQIP, the programme comprises more than 30 national audits related to some of the most commonly-occurring conditions. These collect and analyse data supplied by local clinicians to provide a national picture of care standards for that specific condition.

National Hip Fracture Database (NHFD): a clinically led web-based audit of hip fracture care and secondary prevention in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It collects data on all patients admitted to hospital with hip and femoral fractures aiming to improve their care through auditing which is fed back to hospitals through targeted reports and online reporting.

National Joint Registry: collects and monitors information on hip, knee, ankle, elbow and shoulder joint replacement operations to provide an early warning of issues relating to patient safety, improve the quality of outcomes and ensure the quality and cost-effectiveness of joint replacement surgery.

National Voices: the leading coalition of health and social care charities in England.

NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence): provides national guidance and advice to improve health and social care.

Opioid painkillers: morphine-type medications which are very good analgesics for acute pain and pain at the end of life and can be used to treat moderate or severe pain.

Orthopaedic: a branch of medicine concerned with the correction or prevention of deformities, disorders, or injuries of the skeleton and associated structures (such as tendons and ligaments).

Osteoporosis: a health condition that weakens bones, making them fragile and more likely to break.

Pandemic: a disease that exists in almost all of an area or in almost all of a group of people, animals or plants.

Pathways: the route that a patient follows from the first contact with an NHS member of staff (typically his or her GP) through referral to the completion of treatment.

Patient and Carer Panel (of the Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme): a group of patient and carer volunteers who support the Falls and Fragility Fractures Audit Programme (FFFAP) to bring the patient and carer perspective to the overall Programme and each of its workstreams.

Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW): records all episodes of inpatient and daycase activity in NHS Wales hospitals, which includes planned and emergency admissions, minor and major operations, and hospital stays for giving birth.

Patient outcomes: the results of care that patients receive in hospital including maintenance of patient functional status, maintenance of patient safety, and patient satisfaction.

Perioperative: relating to the time before, during, and after a surgical operation.

Physicians: a medical doctor who usually focuses on the non-surgical treatment of patients' conditions.

Physiotherapy: helps restore movement and function when someone is affected by injury, illness or disability.

Pressure ulcer: also known as pressure sores or bedsores, these are injuries to the skin and underlying tissue, primarily caused by prolonged pressure on the skin.

Primary care: primary care services provide the first point of contact in the healthcare system, acting as the 'front door' of the NHS. Primary care includes general practice, community pharmacy, dental, and optometry (eye health) services.

Prognosis: judgement of the likely or expected development of a disease or of the chances of getting better.

Qualitative: of, relating to, or involving quality or kind.

Quality improvement (QI): involves the use of a systematic and coordinated approach to solving a problem using specific methods and tools with the aim of bringing about a measurable improvement within a health care setting.

Quality standards (QS): set out the priority areas for quality improvement in health and social care.

Quarter (calendar): one of four periods of time into which a year is divided.

Radiology: a branch of medicine concerned with the use of radiant energy (such as X-rays) or radioactive material in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Redeployment: moving employees to a different place or using them in a more effective way.

Registries: a place/database where records are kept.

Rehabilitation: enabling and supporting individuals to recover or adjust, to achieve their full potential and to live as full and active lives as possible. Rehabilitation should start as soon as possible to speed recovery.

Repository: one that contains or stores something nonmaterial (eg knowledge).

Retrospective: looking back over the past.

Rheumatology: the study of disorders of the musculoskeletal system such as the locomotor apparatus, bone and soft connective tissues.

Royal College of Nursing (RCN): the world's largest union and professional body for nursing staff.

Royal Osteoporosis Society (ROS): UK-wide charity dedicated to improving the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis.

Run chart: dynamic graphs derived from data supplied to the NHFD clinical audit by individual hospitals treating hip fracture patients. The charts are used by clinical teams involved with patient care and help drive quality improvement by providing timely feedback on service quality and compliance with national care standards.

Secondary fracture: a fracture that would not otherwise occur were it not for pathological weakening of the bone due to osteoporosis, metastasis, infection, metabolic disorders or other systemic or local disease.

Sedation: medicine that makes you feel sleepy and relaxes you both physically and mentally; it's sometimes used to keep you calm during minor, painful or unpleasant procedures.

Self-isolation: when you do not leave your home because you have or might have coronavirus (COVID-19).

Specialties: the particular subject area or branch of medical science to which one devotes professional attention.

Stakeholder: a person such as an employee, customer, or citizen who is involved with an organization, society, etc. and therefore has responsibilities towards it and an interest in its success.

Standard deviation (SD): a measure of the amount of variation of a set of values.

Subcutaneous: something that is situated, used, or put under your skin.

Thromboembolism: a blood clot that can develop deep in the veins of the body.

Total hip arthroplasty (also called total hip replacement): an operation to replace both the socket in the hip and the rounded top part of the thigh bone (femoral head) with a prosthesis (false part).

Translational Health Sciences: the social science of innovation which takes an interdisciplinary and applied approach to the challenges of implementing innovations and research discoveries in a healthcare setting.

Treatment adherence: the extent to which the patient's action matches the agreed recommendations with regards to prescribed medication/treatment.

Undisplaced Intracapsular Hip fracture: a fracture inside the socket of the hip joint (intracapsular fracture) if it is stable and has not moved significantly (undisplaced).

Whole-Time Equivalent (WTE) Nurses: in order to compare staff resources across organisations taking into account different patterns of part-time and full-time working, the whole-time equivalent (WTE) for each person can be used instead. The WTE for each person is based on their hours worked as a proportion of the contracted hours normally worked by a full-time employee in the post.