TITLE:  Fall Risk Assessment in Adult Patients: Comparative Evidence and Guidelines

DATE:   27 February 2014

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the comparative effectiveness of validated fall risk assessment scales for use in adult patients in acute care, inpatient settings?

2. What is the comparative effectiveness of validated fall risk assessment scales for use in adult patients in long-term care settings?

3. What is the comparative effectiveness of validated fall risk assessment scales for use in adult patients in community care settings?

4. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the use of validated fall risk assessment scales for the use in adult patients in acute inpatient care, inpatient, long-term care, and community settings?

KEY MESSAGE

Six systematic reviews or meta-analyses, 15 non-randomized studies, and five evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding fall risk assessment scales for use in adult patients in acute inpatient care, long-term care, or community settings.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2014, Issue 2), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and guidelines. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2009 and February 21, 2014. Internet links were provided, where available.

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RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

Six systematic reviews and/or meta-analyses, 15 non-randomized studies, and five evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding fall risk assessment scales for use in adult patients in acute inpatient care, long-term care, or community settings. No health technology assessments or randomized controlled trials were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses


Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies


Guidelines and Recommendations

22. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Falls: assessment and prevention of falls in older people [Internet]. London: The Institute; 2013. (NICE clinical guideline no. 161). [cited 2014 Feb 26]. Available from: http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/14181/64166/64166.pdf See: Section 1.2.1 Predicting patients’ risk of falling in hospital (specifically 1.2.1.1) Section 1.2.2 Assessment and interventions (specifically 1.2.2.2, 1.2.2.3)


NGC summary: 
http://www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id=37707&search=mobility+OR+balance+OR+gait
See: Screening and Assessment (no specific tool specified)

Summary: 

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Clinical Practice Guidelines – Methodology Uncertain


Review Articles
