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Today's Overview

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- Fall - definition

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- Near Miss - definition

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- Why we need clear data

FALL - Definition:

Any unintentional change in position where the person ends up on the floor, ground, or other lower level; includes falls that occur while being assisted by others

(interRAI Assessment System)

Why use this definition?

We are all required to use the interRAI assessment system so why not use the definitions from it so we can share data – benchmark accurately etc.

Another definition is

A fall is defined as “inadvertently coming to rest on the ground, floor or other lower level, excluding intentional change in position to rest in furniture, wall or other objects”

(this is the operational definition the Regional falls/pressure injuries group uses)

Why are some falls recorded as a Near Miss?

A Near Miss is:

An unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness or damage.

Source: (Wikipedia)

Any fall experienced by an elderly person may have significant impact. The harm may not be physical but it can affect their confidence, so resulting at times, in major changes to their life.

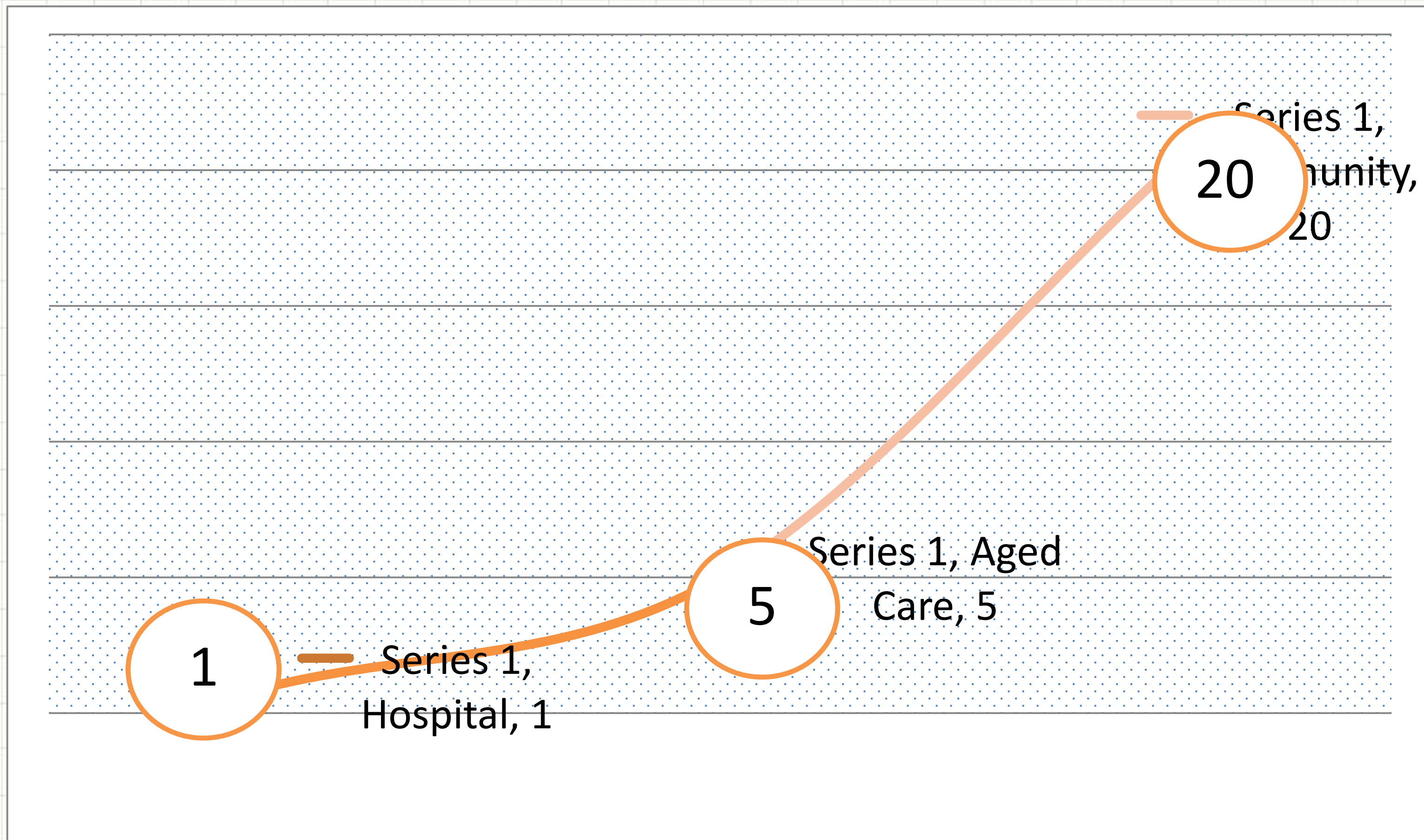
So……………..

IS IT NOT BENEFICIAL TO ALL, TO RECORD ALL FALLS AS FALLS

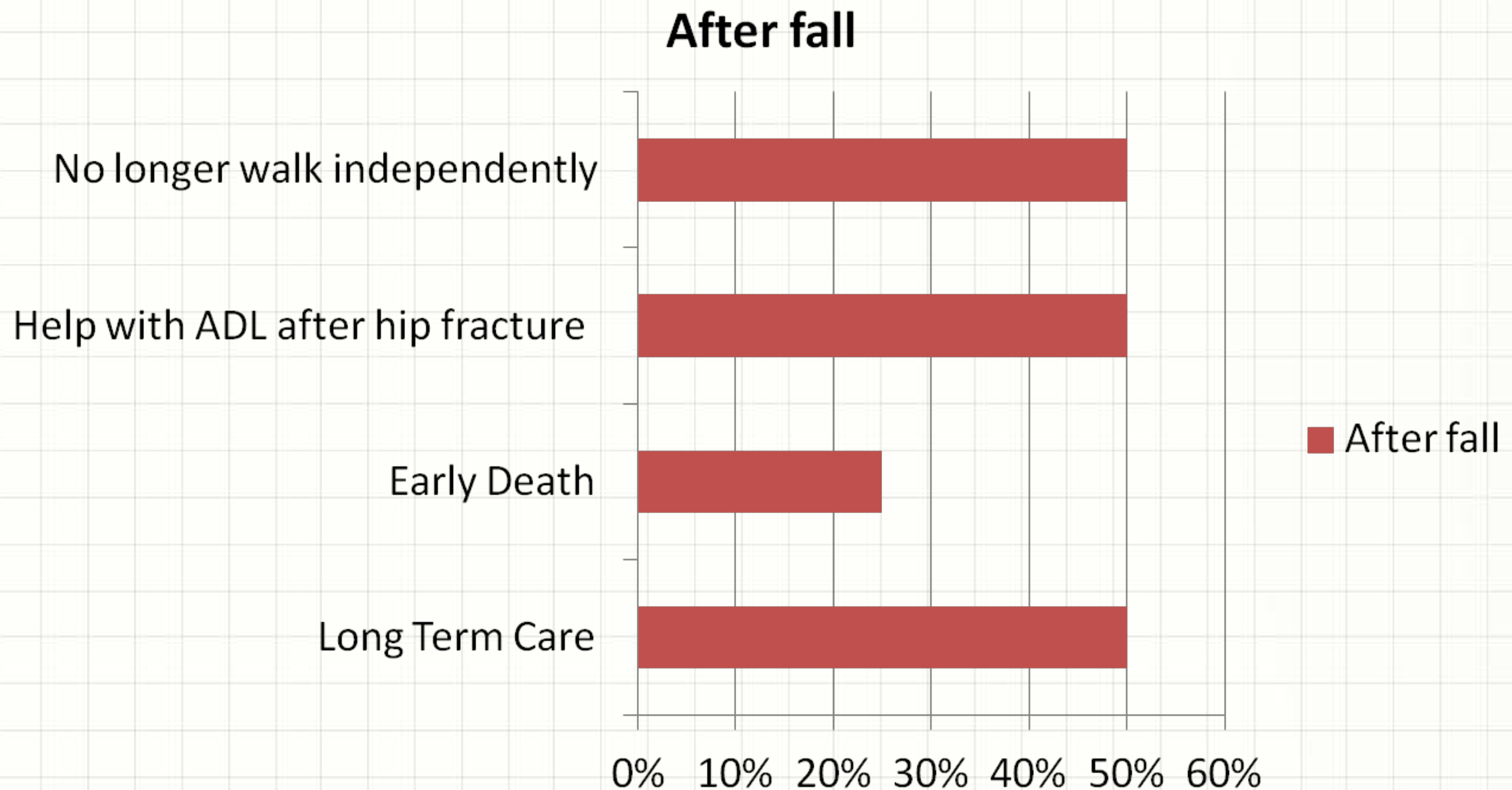
When we look at the following statistics we can appreciate the need to use any fall as an alert and take appropriate actions to prevent the fall that may cause harm.

Where are falls happening?

For every **one** fall that occurs in hospital



Of the frail elderly with osteoporotic fractures



Discussion

- Is a resident moving from a low bed to the floor or mattress on the floor a fall?
- Has a resident who ‘fails to weight bear when being transferred and is lowered to a chair safely ’ had a fall?
- Others

Summary

- **Don't miss the opportunity to collect valuable data.**
  - We should not be working in a 'blame environment'
  - We learn from all falls – not just those with harm
- **Analyse the data – both the individual's data and the group data.**
  - Make the necessary changes, they may still fall but with less chance of harm.
- Keep your eye on the goal
  - **To reduce harm from falls**

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THANK YOU.