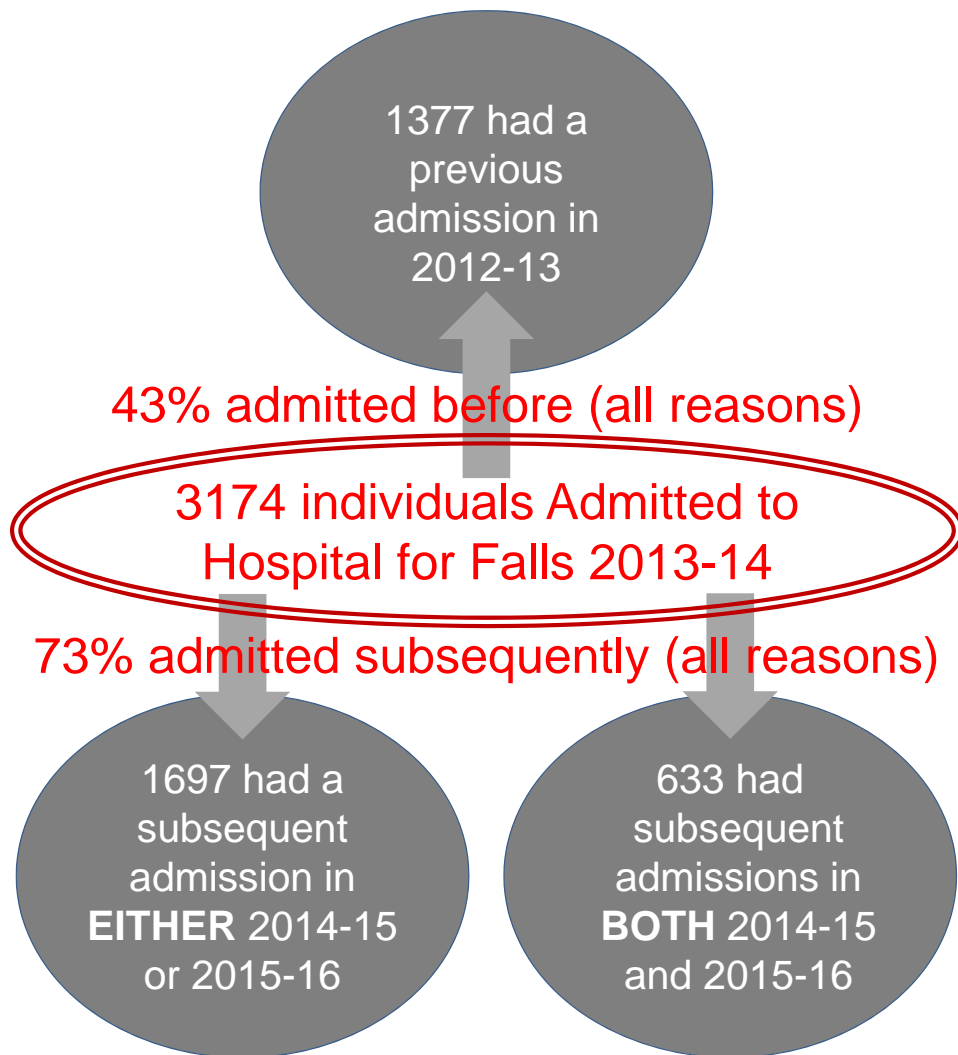


A Frail Person or A Frail System?

An analysis of hospital admissions post and prior to a fall

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Introduction

- Frailty is a common and challenging expression of an ageing population.
- Elderly frail individuals present a major challenge for health and social care. Diminished functional independence increases the risk of adversarial outcomes such as hospitalisation.

Methods

- Secondary Uses Service (SUS) data was analysed to collect information on inpatient attendances for the period 2012/13 to 2015/16.
- Descriptive analysis was undertaken on prior and subsequent admissions for any reason, using 2013-14 falls admissions as the core event.

Results

- Of the 3174 persons admitted for Falls in 2013-14, 1377 had a previous admission for any reason in 2012-13.
- Of the same 3174, 1697 (53%) had an admission for any reason in either 2014-15 or 2015-16, while 633 (20%) had an admission for any reason in both these subsequent years

Conclusions

- Almost three quarters of persons admitted for falls have subsequent admissions within 2 years.
- Annual analysis allows for greater understanding of subsequent admissions than current readmission measures.
- Requirement of a move towards managing frailty (and co-morbidities) rather than dealing with the consequent fall or other admissions.
- Is the current system helping or perpetuating frailty related falls and hospital admissions?