A model guide providing recommendations to minimise the risk of falls and harm from falls within the emergency department
(Facilities are encouraged to develop and adopt localised processes and referral pathways)

**Emergency department**
On presentation to the emergency department, all patients require a falls risk screen. All patients identified ‘at-risk’ of a fall need prevention strategies implemented.

Examples and minimal requirements:
- appropriate use of bed rails
- regular rounding
- patient/family education
- ensure usual mobility aid is available and within reach.

**Ward**
- On admission to the ward, all patients require a comprehensive falls risk assessment.
- All patients require a multifactorial falls prevention plan developed and implemented to address the modifiable risk factors identified within the assessment.
- Consider inpatient referral to allied health professional for a patient identified ‘at-risk’ of a fall.

**Discharge checklist**
- Refer patient to a healthcare professional or multidisciplinary team for a comprehensive falls risk assessment.
- In the discharge summary, inform the patient’s General Practitioner (GP) of the outcome of the falls risk screen, and of any referrals made.
- Consider referral to GP and/or Multidisciplinary Community Team; consider home environment assessment; community exercise programmes.
- Provide education and ensure clear communication to patients and their families and/or carers about the rationale for referrals and interventions for reducing falls risk.

For more information: www.health.qld.gov.au/stayonyourfeet