

**Reference Number:** FOIAH2324/480  
**From:** Other  
**Date:** 01 December 2023  
**Subject:** Paediatric falls

**Q1** How do you define a paediatric fall? For example, how do you differentiate between a toddler losing their balance and falling as part of learning to walk, vs a fall that requires reporting?

**A1** In line with the Trust's Slips, Trips and Falls Policy, falls are defined as:

**Fall:** An unexpected event in which the participant comes to rest on the ground, floor or lower level.

**Fall from a height:** A place is 'at height' if a person could be hurt from it, even if it is at or below ground level.

We would still report an incident for any child who fell during a Physiotherapy contact, even if it was in line with their development so that this incident is recorded and any potential follow up addressed.

**Q2** What are your numbers and rates (for example, per 1000 bed days) of paediatric falls over the past 5 years? Please provide information where a patient has fallen whilst an inpatient only. Please include ages 0-18 years old.

**A2** A total of 251 fall incidents have been reported between 1 January 2018 - 13 December 2023.

Information not held for rates of paediatric falls – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data

**Q3** What risk assessment tools do you use within paediatrics to identify risk of falls?

**A3** There is a falls risk assessment tool on Meditech and is used in line with Trust policy. In line with the Trust's Slips, Trips and Falls Policy, a Paediatric Falls Risk Assessment is completed for every inpatient on admission to the ward and will be completed within 6 hours of admission. If the total score is 3 or more, or based on clinical judgement, then the Falls Care Plan must be completed to document the plan of care required for the patient. The Falls Risk Assessment and Care Plan form part of the ward inpatient admission checklist on Meditech (Trust EPR).