

## NURSING HOME QUALITY AND SAFETY COLLABORATIVE – INFORMATION SHEET

UPDATE – JANUARY 2015



In the first HSC Safety Forum update on this Collaborative (posted on the RQIA website) back in 2012, it was explained that the initial focus for the quality and safety work was in preventing falls in nursing homes.

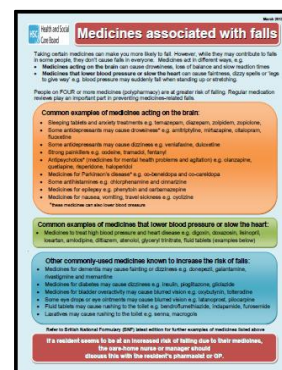
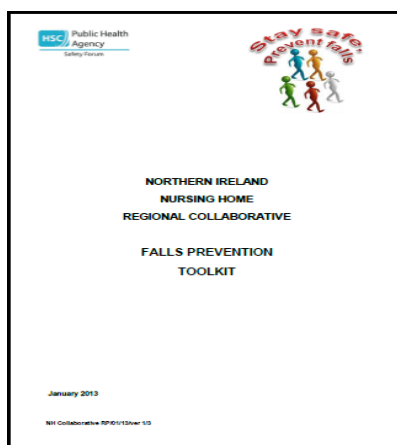
**We can now tell you that, in the participating homes, there was an overall achievement of a 25% reduction in falls.**



This work was also “Highly Commended” and won an award at the 2013 GAIN Conference in Northern Ireland.

Resources to support this work were collected throughout the Collaborative and brought together in a Falls Prevention Toolkit.

There have already had good comments from the residents about this work. They found the Footwear Leaflet useful for them and their families to choose the right shoes and another comment that they find it reassuring to know that designated staff come back to see them on a regular basis during the day checking everything is ok.



The Medicines Associated with Falls Poster (see above) is also now available for all nursing homes in Northern Ireland.

There are a range of other resources in this Toolkit to support work on preventing falls and a link to access this document can be found on Safety Forum section of the Public Health Agency Website:

[www.publichealth.hscni.net](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net)

(then go to Directorates/HSC Safety Forum/Collaboratives/Nursing Homes)

### THE NEXT STEPS

Following discussion with the participating nursing homes, the decision was made to link future quality and safety improvement work with the RQIA Themes for Inspection. For 2014-2015, the focus of the Collaborative has been on improving nutrition and the prevention of pressure damage.

This work is ongoing and further updates will follow later in the year.