

## National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

### Stakeholder comments proforma – engagement exercise for quality standard on falls

Please enter the name of your registered stakeholder organisation below. NICE is unable to accept comments from non-registered organisation or individuals. If you wish your comments to be considered please register via the <a href="#">NICE website</a> or contact the registered stakeholder organisation that most closely represents your interests and pass your comments to them.	
Stakeholder organisation:	The College of Optometrists and the Optical Confederation.
Commenter name:	Ms Jo Mullin
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<b>Please note:</b> comments submitted are published on the NICE website.	
Would you like to express an interest in endorsing this quality standard? Yes	

Key area for quality improvement	Why is this important?	Why is this a key area for quality improvement?	Supporting information
<b>Visual assessment</b>	The chances of having reduced vision greatly increases with age and older people with reduced vision are more likely to fall. Vision is fundamental to coordinating our movement – balance and postural stability are directly affected by vision. In addition, vision is fundamental to adapt gait to enable safe travel	We are pleased that the NICE Guideline 161 asserts that vision should be a part of any falls multi-factorial assessment and a core part of falls interventions. However, emerging evidence shows that standard falls rehabilitation strategies may not be effective for people where vision was a factor. We feel that that vision should be a consideration in all aspects of a patient pathway through falls services - including prevention and rehabilitation programmes.	<p>Please also see the Thomas Pocklington Trust report <a href="#">Falls in older people with sight loss: a review of emerging research and key action points</a> published June 2013, for further evidence.</p> <p>The College of Optometrists recently published the <a href="#">Focus On Falls</a> report which looks specifically at the relationship between falls and vision,</p>

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	<p>though the environment, avoiding obstacles and negotiating steps and stairs.</p>		<p>making several practical recommendations for falls services and the optometric sector. We feel that these reports would be welcome additions to the “Key Policy Documents” section of NICE 161.</p> <p><b>References</b>            College of Optometrists and The British Geriatric Society. <i>The importance of vision in preventing falls</i>, available from <a href="http://tinyurl.com/vision-falls">http://tinyurl.com/vision-falls</a>. Accessed 18.7.2014.            Abdelhafiz, A.H. and Austin, C.A Visual factors should be assessed in older people presenting with falls or hip fracture <i>Age and Ageing</i> 2003 32(1), 26-30            Ivers RQ, Cumming RG, Mitchell P et al. Visual impairment and falls in older adults: the Blue Mountains Eye Study. <i>J. Amer Ger. Soc.</i> 1998 46(1): 58-64            Cummings SR. Treatable and untreatable risk factors for hip fracture. <i>Bone</i> 1996 18(3 suppl): 165S-167S            Jack DI, Smith T, Neoh C et al. Prevalence of low vision in elderly patients admitted to an acute geriatric unit in Liverpool: elderly people who fall are more likely to have low vision <i>Gerontology</i> 1995 41(5), 280-5            Patino CM, McKean-Cowdin R, Azen SP et al Central and peripheral visual impairment and the risk of falls and falls with injury <i>Ophthalmology</i> 2010 117(2) 199-206            Knudtson MD, Klein BE, Klein R Biomarker of aging and falling: the Beaver Dam eye study</p>

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			<p><i>Arch Gerontol Geriatr</i> 2009 49(1) 22-26  Kuang TM, Tsai SY, Hsu WM et al Visual impairment and falls in the elderly: the Shihpai Eye Study <i>J Chin Med Assoc</i> 2008 71(9) 467-72  Kulmala J, Era P, Parssinen O et al Lowered vision as a risk factor for injurious accidents in older people <i>Aging Clin Exp Res</i> 2008 20(1) 25-30  Lamoureux EI, Chong E, Want JJ et al Visual impairment, causes of vision loss, and falls; the Singapore Malay eye study <i>Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci</i> 2008 49(2) 528-33  de Boer MR, Pluijm SM, Lips P et al Different aspects of visual impairment as risk factors for falls and fractures in older men and women <i>J Bone Miner Res</i> 2004 19(9) 1539-47  Coleman AL, Stone K, Ewing SK et al Higher risk of multiple falls among elderly women who lose visual acuity <i>Ophthalmology</i> 2004 111(5) 857-62</p>
Key area for quality improvement 2			
Key area for quality improvement 3			
Key area for quality improvement 4			
Additional developmental areas of emergent practice			

Please email this form to: [QStopicengagement@nice.org.uk](mailto:QStopicengagement@nice.org.uk)

Closing date: Tuesday 22 July 2014 5pm