

The City of Edinburgh Council Launch Telecare Falls Initiative....**20th September 2009**

For those individuals who've been unfortunate to have fallen, been admitted to A&E or been referred by a GP to the Edinburgh rapid response service, help is at hand to ensure a swift rehabilitation and recovery.



Tynetec Fall Detector

September sees the launch of the Edinburgh Telecare Falls Initiative. Telecare packages will be supplied to 300 end users over the course of 12 months. The project is joint funded by Edinburgh Community Health Partnership and the City of Edinburgh Community Alarm and Telecare Service working in partnership with telecare equipment manufacturer Tynetec Limited.

The initiative is being led by the newly appointed Falls Co-ordinator for Edinburgh Community Health Partnership, Lisa Stewart and is supported by the Telecare Development Manager, Paddy Corscadden.

“Fall prevention is a major priority for Edinburgh” says Lisa “we’ve developed a strategy to help tackle this issue and the use of telecare is an excellent additional strand to the falls prevention strategy.”

The patients after an assessment by an Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist in the rapid response team are referred directly to the Edinburgh Community Alarm and Telecare Service (CATS).

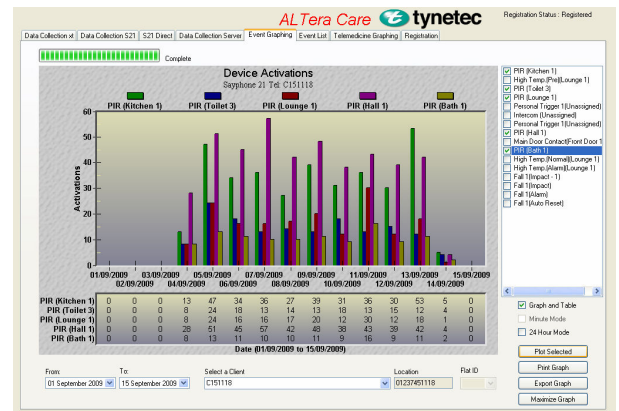
The patient will receive a falls package consisting of a SayPhone 21, fall detector, movement detectors, pull cords and bed occupancy monitor with a remote light switch. This package is installed within 24hrs of the referral being made. The falls package operates on the new TSA endorsed BS8521 British Standard Protocol which has now been fully adopted by Edinburgh for all future telecare installs.

A unique feature of the Tynetec fall detector is the ability to detect stumbles as well as falls. By logging the daily activity through Altera Care software, it's possible to build up a personal daily activity profile which can be used to predict whether a person may be at risk of another fall.

Tynetec Marketing Manager, Mark Shepherd added, “Traditional Telecare systems can offer a fantastic, quick response service to many incidents including falls & seizures. With Preventative Telecare however, it's now possible to predict the likelihood of an event occurring before it happens and despatch the appropriate service response. This often results in a much improved confidence for both the end user and the carer.”

“Tynetec have been great at helping us get the full functionality of the telecare systems to best support the needs of our end users.” says Paddy “We are keen to see the impact that the systems will have on supporting this client group particularly through the use of the Altera Care software package.”

“Edinburgh Community Alarm and Telecare Service (CATS) currently provide approx 120 emergency visits per month to deal with fallen patients, with call to door normally only taking an average of 28 minutes with less than 15% of these calls requiring admission to hospital.



Tynetec Altera Care Software

This initiative is aimed at augmenting known basic pendant alarm users with telecare falls equipment or providing a telecare service to fallers who have not previously used the service.

The key aims of this development are to reduce the fear of falling that people often experience following a fall, often people may be fearful of having further falls and as a result tend to mobilise less – this can often lead to deterioration in their mobility longer term.

With the telecare falls initiative we hope that people will feel more able to continue to mobilise with the reassurance that assistance is close at hand.”

Evaluation of the initiative will continue throughout its’ duration to clearly show just how much of an impact the falls package has on the independent living and wellbeing of the end user.

For further details visit www.edinburgh.gov.uk/telecare or www.tynetec.co.uk



THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Trusted Technology. Caring for People

Community Partnership