### Study information

- **PERFECTED** is a 5-year (2013-18) NIHR funded programme aimed at improving hospital care for hip-fracture patients with dementia.

### Aim for this phase

- To find out about current care practices on acute hospital wards to inform the development and implementation of a recovery pathway.

### Method

- Observations of usual practice on ortho-geriatric wards at three locations in England.

### Observational research in acute hospital settings → looking at usual care practices → better inform and put into practice a new recovery pathway

#### The observations:

- Researchers observed for 3 or 4 hours at a time.
- Observations focussed on usual working practices.
- Four of the 51 observations took place in emergency departments.
- Observations covered weekends and the 24 hour period in each of the 3 wards.
- Observations were of the shared spaces on the ward. They did not cover ‘behind curtain’ care.
- Researchers wrote detailed notes during the observations.
- Researchers had informal chats with staff members to find out more information.
- Lay researchers were supported by academic researchers.

#### Initial findings:

The analysis of the observation data is underway; we are already noticing key themes:

- Routines are important to get essential work completed. It can take a lot of work to maintain routines.
- There are multiple disruptions to ongoing work. These can be patient or staff led.
- Staff have to constantly re-prioritise their actions.
- Writing patient notes assists other staff members to carry out their work.
- Decision making by staff relies on written records, team work and staff conversations.
- Managing risk impacts on staff actions.

#### How the findings will be used:

The observations of usual practice on acute hospital wards will help the PERFECTED team to better develop and put into practice the recovery pathway for hip-fracture patients with dementia. The pathway will be:

- More relevant
- More thorough
- Easier for staff to use
- Grounded in current practice
- Findings from observations

For more information about this research please visit: www.perfected.ac.uk or follow us on twitter @perfectedERP

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This poster presents independent research funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) under its Programme Grants for Applied Research Programme (Reference Number DTC-RP-PG-0311-12004). The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health. ©Queen’s Printer and Controller of HMSO 2015. This work was produced by the authors listed above under the terms of a commissioning contract issued by the Secretary of State for Health.