



# **Huddle Up for Safer Healthcare Yorkshire Safety Huddles**



## **Basic Information Leaflet**

Yorkshire and Humber Improvement Academy  
October 2021

Patient harms are estimated to cost the NHS more than £2.3billion per year<sup>1</sup>. For example, inpatient falls can lead to hip fractures and other injuries, whilst even falls without harm can lead to loss of confidence and increased length of stay for patients.

The Yorkshire and Humber Improvement Academy is actively working with over 300 frontline teams across the region within a variety of healthcare sectors including acute, mental health, community, nursing homes and GP practices to implement our Huddle Up for Safer Healthcare (HUSH) programme. Our Safety Huddle has been demonstrated to reduce patient harm<sup>2</sup>.

## What is a Yorkshire Safety Huddle?

Team huddles have been used for many years and across many industries to improve team-working and communication. We have combined the notion of a team huddle with measuring patient safety.

Since 2013, we have worked with over 300 frontline teams. We have developed and adapted our approach to establish what are the active ingredients that make our Yorkshire Safety Huddles effective and sustainable.

## Our background

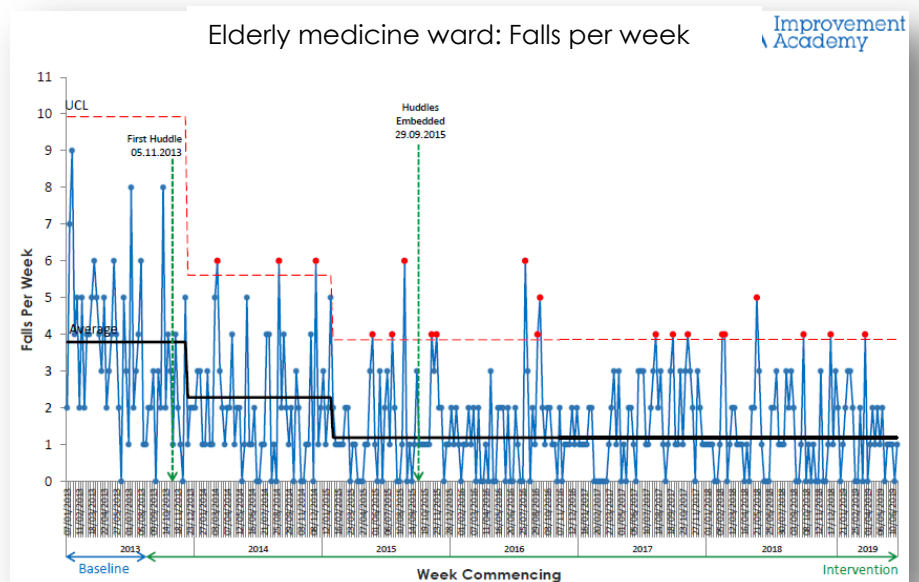
Our journey began in 2013 working with one team in Leeds Teaching Hospitals who wanted to reduce their falls. Their focus was who they were worried about falling on that day and what could they do as a team. The initial aim was to go 30 days without a fall - the team did not believe this was possible. We started huddles using PDSA cycles, focusing on one initial harm and encouraged participation from doctors, pharmacists, nurses, care support workers, housekeepers, therapists, ward clerks and administration staff.

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<sup>1</sup> NHS Improvement – The incidence and costs of inpatient falls in hospitals (July 2017)

<sup>2</sup> University of Bradford - Evaluation of the Huddling Up for Safer Healthcare Scaling Up Project – page 37

This was backed up by monthly data measurement using SPC (Statistical Process Control) charts. After some time, these charts began to show improvements with a step reduction of 50% fewer falls.



From this work, in 2015 the Health Foundation awarded a grant to scale up safety huddles in 3 acute trusts across 5 hospitals in Leeds, Barnsley and Scarborough where huddles were successfully implemented and embedded in 83% of all inpatient wards<sup>3</sup>.

Yorkshire safety huddles have now become a flagship programme in the Improvement Academy and are an integral part of our work in improving overall patient safety.

View our **HUSH video** to see the impact of our Yorkshire Safety huddles  
<http://bit.ly/2Jz4hla>



## Our HUSH coaches network

Once you have become a nominated HUSH coach, with the agreement of your organisation you will be invited to join our HUSH coaches network.

We hold quarterly meetings in locations across Yorkshire and Humber. These meetings give the HUSH coaches an opportunity to meet up and discuss how huddles are progressing in their organisation and to share learning on what is working and what is not working so well!

<sup>3</sup> The Health Foundation Final Report Sept 2017 – Scaling up Patient Safety Huddles to enhance patient safety and safety culture in hospital wards – page 10

In addition we hold HUSH training for new coaches covering:

- ▶ coaching clinical teams in improvement
- ▶ the impact of safety huddles
- ▶ how to huddle 'at scale' across your organisation
- ▶ top tips for getting the best out of culture surveys

## HUSH Academy

The Improvement Academy offers a 12-month coaching package to support the implementation of Yorkshire Safety Huddles.

Our coaching package covers training one of your nominated coaches over one year to enable them to develop the required skills to become a Yorkshire Safety Huddles coach. The package includes all the necessary tools and materials to support your huddles including analysis and presentation of your data. There is also the option to discuss a bespoke package to fit your requirements.

## For further information contact:

Vicky Padgett

Project Manager

Improvement Academy

[vicky.padgett@yhia.nhs.uk](mailto:vicky.padgett@yhia.nhs.uk)

t: 01274 383960



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