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Dear Practice Manager,

You have received this letter and enclosed survey as your practice is listed on the Health and Social Care Information Centre website.

Researchers from Brunel University London and the University of Sydney are investigating the perceptions and practices of GPs about falls prevention assessment and management for older people living in the community. Research ethics approval has been obtained from the Research Ethics Committees at the University of Sydney as well as the Department of Clinical Sciences at Brunel University London, and is defined as a service evaluation, so does not require additional NHS approval.

We hope that you will consider forwarding the enclosed survey to one of the GPs in your practice for them to participate in this study by completing a survey. They have the choice of completing the enclosed paper versions of the survey and returning it in the reply paid envelope, or completing the on-line survey available at: <https://brunel.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/falls-prevention>. If other GPs within your practice or network would like to take part, please signpost them to the online survey.

We anticipate that the survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete, and the closing date for both the paper and on-line survey is 26th July 2016.

The aim of the study is to determine the current practice of GPs regarding falls risk screening, assessment, direct intervention and referrals to Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) and community falls prevention clinics/programmes.

Falls and fall injuries have a negative impact on the health, confidence and independence of older people and create an economic burden to community and health care resources. With an ageing population, falls related injuries are projected to impact an increasing number of older people in coming years. Effective falls interventions are known, but older people are not always accessing these services. GPs are an important link in identifying older people at risk of falls and initiating successful fall prevention care management.

We would like to know what daily practice is with community-living older people who may be at risk of falls, so please forward to one of your GP colleagues so they can tell us what they think.

We hope to identify current practice for GPs in falls prevention on an international level, across different health systems. This is relevant to all GPs and will enable us to define best practice and design sustainable falls prevention pathways in the primary care context.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Anne McIntyre
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A/Prof Lynette Mackenzie
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