

Falls Prevention Sensor Mat Trial

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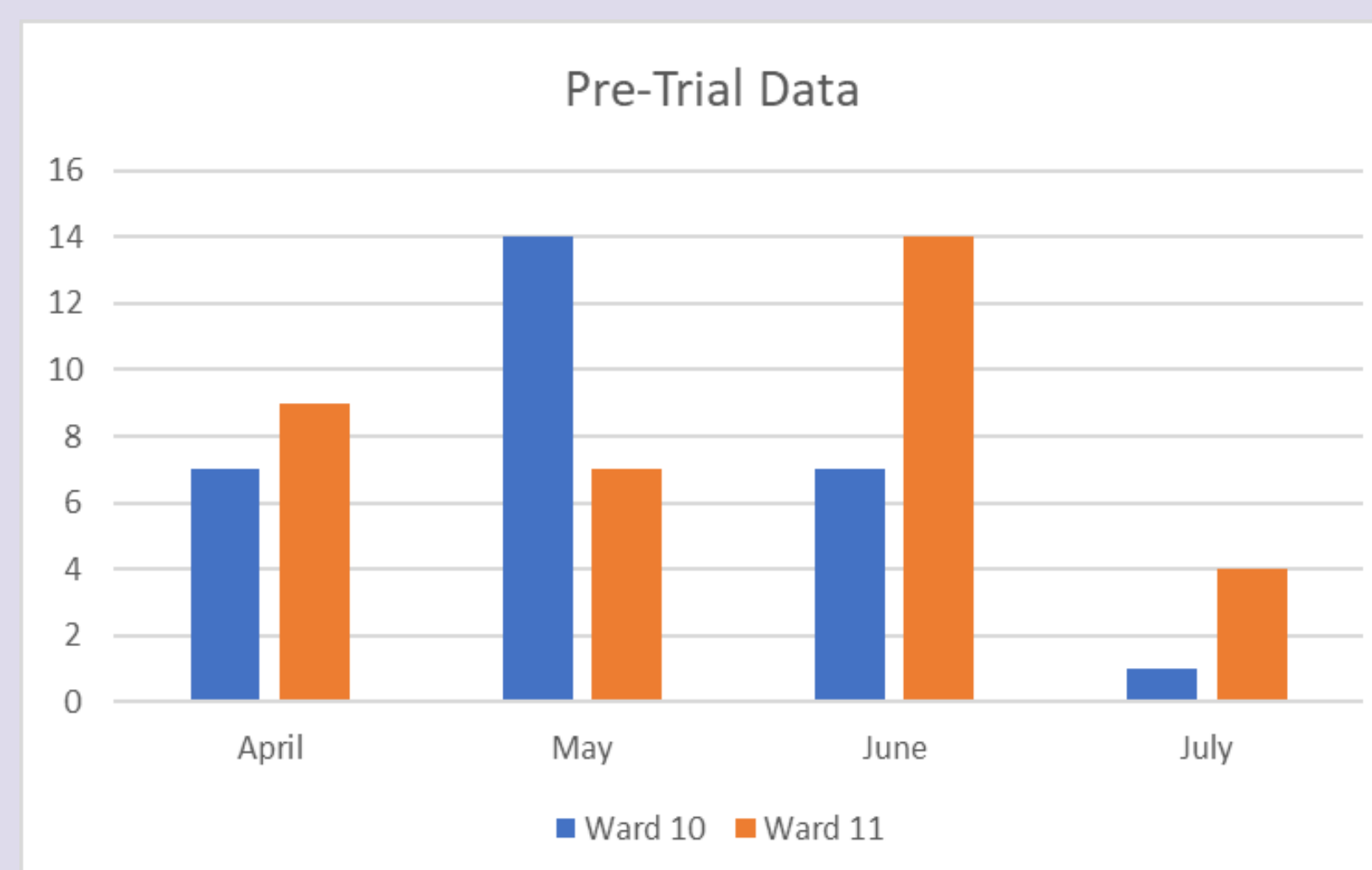
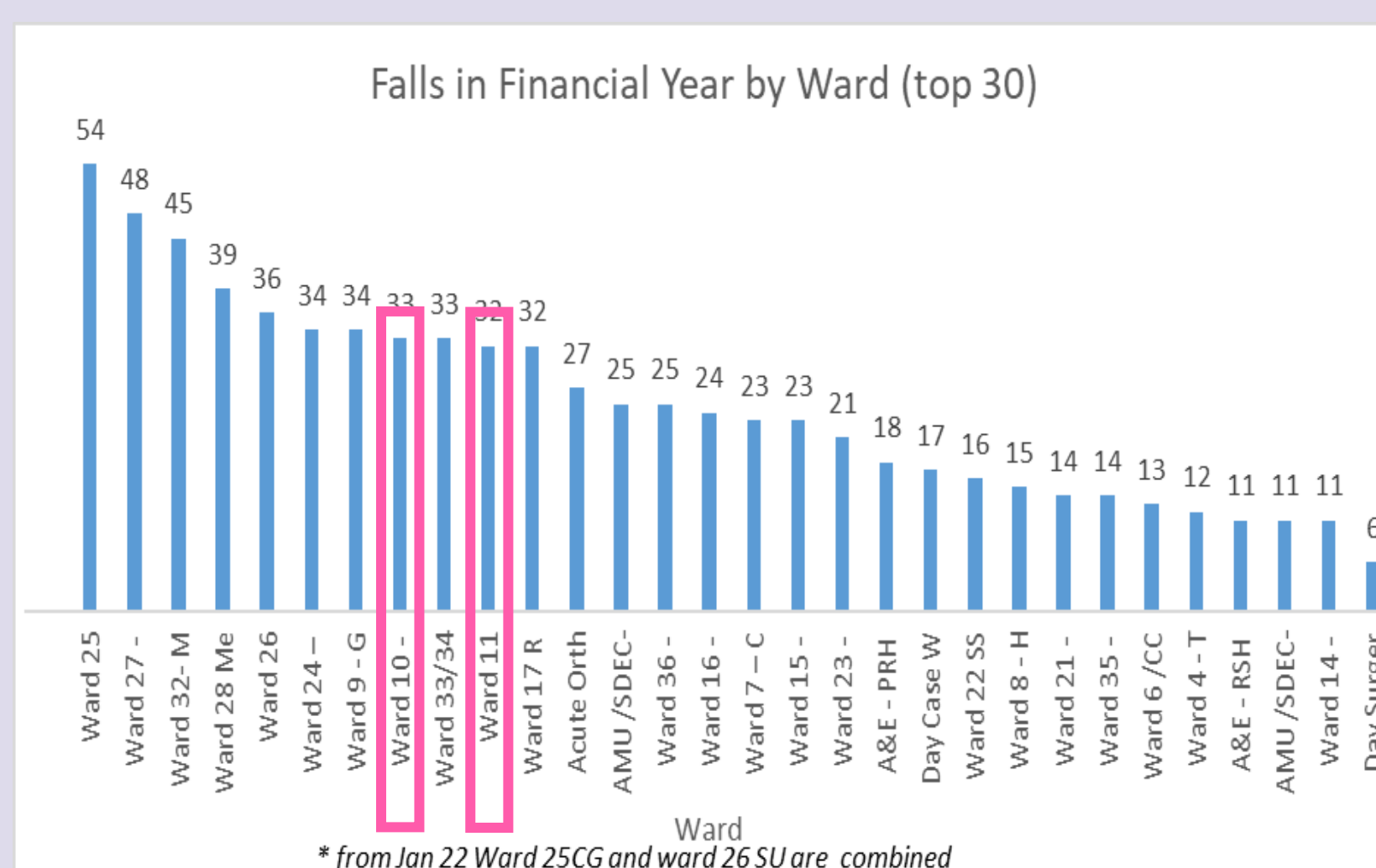
Abstract: In order to maintain the safety of our patients and help reduce the risk of falls, falls sensor mats were trialled on Ward 10 and 11. The mats have resulted in an overall reduction in falls of 55% on Ward 10 and 62% reduction in Ward 11 during the trial period.

SMART Aim

To reduce the number of inpatient falls on Wards 10/11 PRH, by 40% by 31st October 2022.

Plan

The Trust reports on the number of falls, falls per 1000 bed days which reflects the ratio of falls based on how busy/full the hospital is and the ratio of falls with moderate harm or above per 1000 bed days each month through the Integrated Performance Report to the Quality Operational Committee and the Quality and Safety Assurance Committee. A multifactorial approach is required in order to reduce the number of falls in our care. Our Previous focus has been on training/education, documentation etc. We have not yet implemented any Falls technology. Other trusts using the proposed equipment have seen a 40% reduction in their number of falls.



We chose Wards 10/11 at PRH, for the trial, as they had participated in a previous trial, using a different model, and had a high rate of inpatient falls.

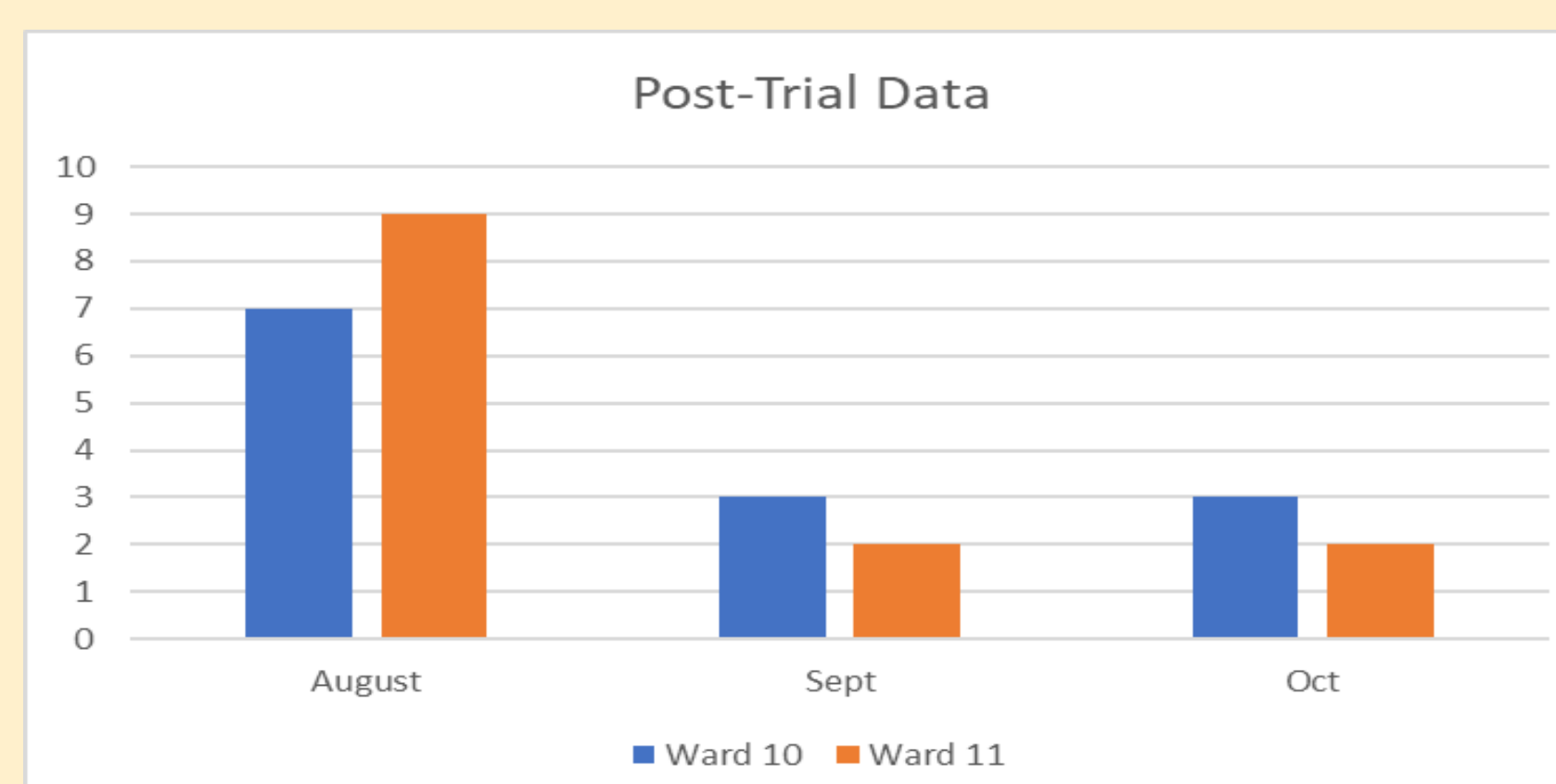
Do

A criteria for use was agreed which then included patients who required the use of a high-low bed, were in a less visible area of the ward & who were unable to use the call bell for assistance. The trial commenced on 01/08/2022 and support was provided by the manufacturer Medline, with training the Ward teams. The criteria for use was displayed on both wards and the trust Falls Prevention Practitioner paid weekly visits to both wards. The trial was planned for a 3-month period ending on 31/10/2022. The availability of the sensor mats were shared at daily huddles. A section was added into the Datix incident reporting system, to capture if the sensor mats were in use at the time of any falls on the wards. This also helped the Falls Prevention Practitioner to identify potential patients and attempt to prevent repeat falls.

Study

The initial training of the team was undertaken during August to ensure that the majority of team members were aware of how to use the mats. Following the initial training, the trial of the sensor mats began from 1st September. The therapy team working on Wards 10/11 then became involved in early October 2022, after meeting and receiving training from the Falls Prevention Practitioner. A section was included in Datix to capture if falls occurred with a sensor mat in use to further monitor the effectiveness of the falls sensor mats.

When comparing pre- and post-trial data, there has been a 55% reduction in falls on Ward 10 and a 62% reduction in falls on Ward 11 during the three-month period from August to October.



Act

Following the success demonstrated within the trial, next steps will include a presentation at Device & Products committee in December 2022 where approval for purchase of more products will be sought. If approved, then a system will need to be developed where the equipment can be included in our equipment store so that wards can request the alarm and mats. This will allow tracking of usage across the wards. Additional training will Training will need to be arranged for each ward including the criteria for use. The alarm system will also need inclusion within the new High-Low bed SOP.