



**Midlands Partnership**  
NHS Foundation Trust

STORIES FROM THE WARD

# MARTIN

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OLDER ADULT

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Witnessing unwitnessed falls to prevent future harm

As told by Helen Bagnall

oxehealth

Martin<sup>1</sup> is in his mid-80s and was admitted to the older adult ward on 13th February<sup>2</sup> with a diagnosis of dementia. Martin is frail and at risk of falls.

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We heard Martin fall in his bedroom and quickly attended to him. **We didn't witness his fall** and Martin lacked capacity to tell us how he'd fallen.

It was important for us to know how he fell because we can then **respond with the appropriate level of care**. If we're uncertain, we have to err on the side of caution and assume he's hit his head, which can lead to unnecessary and intrusive neurological observations if the patient is okay.

Helen Bagnall, Nurse

Martin was cared for in a bedroom equipped with Oxevision. Helen and her team decided to use the Oxevision's replay the alert functionality, which allowed them to replay the fall footage for a limited period of time, and show it to the doctor on duty.

By **replaying the footage** to the doctor, we were **able to assess whether Martin hit his head or not** and we saw that he'd fallen on his bottom. We also saw that he'd grabbed onto the curtain for stability which caused his fall, and we **had not considered it a hazard before then.**

This was very useful as it meant we didn't have to conduct neurological observations which are intrusive and would regularly wake Martin up. Instead we kept an eye on him using the system and removed the curtain from his room to **prevent future falls.**

Helen Bagnall, Nurse



<sup>1</sup>A pseudonym has been used to maintain patient anonymity

<sup>2</sup>The date has been changed to maintain patient anonymity

## ABOUT OXEHEALTH

Oxehealth's Oxevision supports Mental Health organisations to improve inpatient safety and quality whilst giving clinicians more time to care.

Oxevision uses an optical sensor to pay attention to patients in bedrooms when staff can't be there. The Vital Signs module enables staff to take contact-free vital sign spot checks without entering the room. The system provides real time alerts to highrisk activity and displays activity and behaviour reports.

Oxehealth has won the HSJ Patient Safety Award for "Best HealthTech Solution" and Regional Parliamentary "The Future NHS" Award. Oxevision has been highlighted as an example of outstanding practice by the CQC<sup>1</sup>.

### FOOTNOTES

The Oxehealth Vitals Signs device is a certified medical device in Europe. It is intended for non-invasive spot measurements of pulse rate and respiratory rate. It is a fixed-installed device for use within single occupancy rooms within hospitals, general care, domestic and secured environments where a framework exists which mandates period checks by a trained professional to ensure subject safety. See Instructions for Use for intended use, contraindications, warnings, cautions, usage directions and maintenance.

The activity detection, fall risk, activity tracker and sleep products are activity trackers and do not have a medical purpose or functionality. They are not patient monitors or vital signs monitors. They cannot be used to make a medical or clinical decision.

<sup>1</sup>See <https://oxe.health/cqc-cwpt>

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