



Press release

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For immediate release

42% of care home residents suffer falls every year

University of Derby research reveals a shocking statistic

Recent research from the University of Derby has sparked a fresh debate about the care of elderly people living in residential and care homes. Their investigation revealed that more than four in ten residents fall over every year and over 68% suffer multiple falls – some every day. Previous studies had already suggested that falls and fractures were three to four times higher in a care home setting compared to those living in the community.

As well as a source of concern to the relatives of those affected, there is a significant cost to the NHS when medical treatment is required, and this research places further pressure on everyone responsible for safety in the care home sector.

Dr Jonathan Bayly, a Visiting Fellow at the University of Derby comments:

“We have a tendency to place elderly people into residential homes and hope it will be all right – but is it always the case? It may be that much more could be done to help reduce the risk of falls and fractures and an outlay of funding now could help save the NHS millions further down the line in after care as a result of a fall.”

In an attempt to reduce these troubling statistics many GPs may now recommend supplements of calcium and Vitamin D to strengthen bones and improve muscle strength and coordination. Care home groups are increasingly investing in staff training and

resident-centric falls prevention strategies. However, it is also crucial to consider the physical environment of residential and nursing homes to ensure that falling hazards are reduced, especially in older buildings.

Steven Phillips, Managing Director of flooring care specialists Bonasystems comments:

“We very much welcome any research which highlights the importance of monitoring slipping hazards, especially so in the case of vulnerable elderly people. It is a risk that all businesses and organisations are obliged to evaluate if they wish to avoid compensation claims for accidents on their premises. What is frequently not understood is that installing non-slip flooring is not enough – without daily maintenance the surfaces can still present a slipping hazard. For example, all hard floors in wet environments such as bathrooms carry an especially high risk which can be significantly lessened with the correct cleaning regime. We agree with Professor Bayly that often many of these distressing accidents could be avoided.”

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

- Founded in 1990, Bonasystems Limited is based in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire and aims to help clients achieve ‘safe, clean, germ-free surfaces’
- Its commercial cleaning, restoration and protection products and processes include:
 - BONACLEAN – specialist floor and wall cleaner for limescale and calcium removal
 - BONAGRIP – contract-applied non-slip chemical process for ceramic, porcelain and natural hard surface floors
 - BONAPRO 1, 2 & 3 – cleans and restores hard floors after deeply ingrained soiling
 - BONAMAIN+ – cleaner that also helps combat the transmission of infections
 - BONACLEAN GEL & BONAMAIN+ GEL – for textured rubber floor surfaces

- BONADECAN – cleaner to remove oil, grease and scuff marks from most floors
- BONASEAL – breathable sealant to protect natural and porous hard surfaces
- Products are Compliant with US, European and UK health and safety standards
- Approval by leading Spanish and Italian tile manufacturers
- Corporate member of the CSSA, Fitness Industry Association and CERAM
- Blue chip customers in seven European countries and Middle East with expansion planned into the US and other global markets

Contacts:

Steven Phillips

Bonasystems Limited

tel: 01442 419470

mob: 07850 731700

email: stevenphillips@bonasystems.com

Mike Johnstone (PR agents)

The Outsourced Marketing Department (PR agents)

tel: 01279 657555

email: mike@tomd.co.uk

mob: 07958 975203