AutoAlert and Falls – The Facts

The longer the lie time, the greater the incidence of serious preventable consequences, which can include need for hospitalization, loss of independent living, and death.

The facts regarding falls with long lie times are alarming.

Consider these statistics:
- The mortality rate from falls has been determined to be 67% when lie times were more than 72 hours, as opposed to 12% when lie times were less than one hour.¹
- Of the patients found alive, 62% were hospitalized and approximately half required intensive care.
- Of the survivors, over 60% were unable to return to independent living.

The prevalence of falls within the senior population is extensive.

Consider these statistics:
- Over 13.3 million people 65 years and older will fall this year.²
  - That’s one fall every 2.3 seconds on average.³
  - Over 36,000 older adults will fall each day.
  - About half of older adults who fall cannot get back up without help.⁴
- Falls among older adults are a common occurrence that contributes to hospital utilization.⁵
- Falls account for over 60% of all nonfatal-injury emergency department visits in the 65-and-older population. This group is three times more likely to be hospitalized due to fall-related injury than younger persons.⁶
- Fall risk is highest during the first two weeks after discharge from the hospital, as compared to three months later.⁷
- Older adults with diabetes have a higher rate of falling than the general population.⁸
- Seniors with diabetes are twice as likely to break a hip when they fall,⁹ and a fracture is 12 times more likely for those with Type 1 diabetes.¹⁰
- According to the National Safety Council (NSC), more than 30,000 older Americans are injured in falls each week.¹¹
- Of all nursing home admissions, 40% are related to falls.¹²

What can you do to help prevent more seniors from being counted among these statistics?

Consider these facts about Lifeline with AutoAlert:
- AutoAlert is the first medical alert pendant that can automatically call for help if it detects a fall, even when the subscriber is immobilized or doesn’t push his or her button.
- AutoAlert is the most widely adopted fall detection in the U.S. market for personal emergency response systems, detecting greater than 95% of falls.¹³
- The Lifeline Service can potentially contribute to reduced hospital utilization; Lifeline’s quick access to help can minimize “down” time and the risk of serious health consequences that may require hospitalization.
- Over 160,000 subscribers have benefited from the peace of mind provided by AutoAlert since its introduction just a few years ago.
- In recognition of its innovative, senior-friendly AutoAlert product design, Philips Lifeline has received prestigious awards from International Design Forum, Good Industrial Design, and IDSA.
Footnotes:

1. Persons Found in Their Homes Helpless or Dead, NEJM, 334: 1710-1716 (June 27), 1996.
2. Falls Among Older Adults: An Overview, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Falls/adultfalls.html. In 2009, 2.2 million nonfatal fall injuries among older adults were treated in emergency departments; about one-quarter of these patients were hospitalized.
3. Calculation is based on 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data and the fact that one-third of people 65 and older fall each year. Source: www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Falls/adultfalls.html.
5. NEJM, 1996.
10. Ibid.
13. Figure is based on the number of undetected falls that have been reported to Phillips Lifeline by U.S. AutoAlert subscribers for the period from January 2012 through July 2012. Undetectable falls can include a gradual slide from a seated position, such as from a wheelchair, which may not register as a fall.