

Four Things You Can Do to Prevent Falls:

① **Speak up.**

Talk openly with your healthcare provider about fall risks and prevention. Ask your doctor or pharmacist to review your medicines.

② **Keep moving.**

Begin an exercise program to improve your leg strength and balance.

③ **Get an annual eye exam.**

Replace eyeglasses as needed.

④ **Make your home safer.**

Remove clutter and tripping hazards.

Learn More

Contact your local community or senior center for information on exercise, fall prevention programs, and options for improving home safety, or visit:

- go.usa.gov/xN9XA
- www.stopfalls.org



1 in 4 people 65 and older falls each year.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/steady

This brochure was produced in collaboration with the following organizations: VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, Geriatric Research Education & Clinical Center (GRECC), and the Fall Prevention Center of Excellence.

Distributed by:

Falls can lead to a loss of independence, but they are preventable.

Stay Independent

Learn more about fall prevention.



STEADI

Stopping Elderly Accidents,
Deaths & Injuries

Check Your Risk for Falling

| Circle “Yes” or “No” for each statement below | | | Why it matters |
|---|--------|--|---|
| Yes (2) | No (0) | I have fallen in the past year. | People who have fallen once are likely to fall again. |
| Yes (2) | No (0) | I use or have been advised to use a cane or walker to get around safely. | People who have been advised to use a cane or walker may already be more likely to fall. |
| Yes (1) | No (0) | Sometimes I feel unsteady when I am walking. | Unsteadiness or needing support while walking are signs of poor balance. |
| Yes (1) | No (0) | I steady myself by holding onto furniture when walking at home. | This is also a sign of poor balance. |
| Yes (1) | No (0) | I am worried about falling. | People who are worried about falling are more likely to fall. |
| Yes (1) | No (0) | I need to push with my hands to stand up from a chair. | This is a sign of weak leg muscles, a major reason for falling. |
| Yes (1) | No (0) | I have some trouble stepping up onto a curb. | This is also a sign of weak leg muscles. |
| Yes (1) | No (0) | I often have to rush to the toilet. | Rushing to the bathroom, especially at night, increases your chance of falling. |
| Yes (1) | No (0) | I have lost some feeling in my feet. | Numbness in your feet can cause stumbles and lead to falls. |
| Yes (1) | No (0) | I take medicine that sometimes makes me feel light-headed or more tired than usual. | Side effects from medicines can sometimes increase your chance of falling. |
| Yes (1) | No (0) | I take medicine to help me sleep or improve my mood. | These medicines can sometimes increase your chance of falling. |
| Yes (1) | No (0) | I often feel sad or depressed. | Symptoms of depression, such as not feeling well or feeling slowed down, are linked to falls. |
| Total _____ | | Add up the number of points for each “yes” answer. If you scored 4 points or more, you may be at risk for falling. Discuss this brochure with your doctor. | |