

## 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:

- [cdc.gov/falls](https://www.cdc.gov/falls)
- [www.stopfalls.org](https://www.stopfalls.org)



1 in 4 people 65 and older falls each year.

# Stay Independent

Learn more about fall prevention.



For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/steady](https://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.



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

**STEADI**

Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries

Prevent falls to stay injury-free and independent.

# 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.

To check your risk online, visit: [www.bit.ly/3o4RiW8](http://www.bit.ly/3o4RiW8)

This checklist was developed by the Greater Los Angeles VA Geriatric Research Education Clinical Center and affiliates and is a validated fall risk self-assessment tool (Rubenstein et al. J Safety Res; 2011: 42(6)493-499). Adapted with permission of the authors.