

FACT SHEET

SAFE

Medication Review Framework

Use this framework to conduct a medication review to help prevent older adult falls.



SCREEN

for medications that may increase fall risk.



ASSESS

the patient to best manage health conditions.



FORMULATE

the patient's medication action plan.



EDUCATE

the patient and caregiver about medication changes and fall prevention strategies.

A Team-based Approach

Adapted from existing medication therapy management tools developed and used by pharmacists, this review framework uses the **SAFE** process: **Screen, Assess, Formulate, and Educate.**

Consider working with pharmacists, who are trained specifically in medication review and management.

Pharmacists are a valuable resource available to your healthcare team.



SCREEN for medications that may increase fall risk.

- Obtain and reconcile the medication list¹
- Group medications based on medical conditions
- Identify [medications that may increase fall risk](#) or have potential interactions
- Consider adjusting medications based on age, kidney, and liver function
- Use labs, health and prescription history, and prescription monitoring data



ASSESS the patient to best manage health conditions.

Discuss the following:

- Treatment goals
- Current medication regimen
- Side effects experienced
- Non-pharmacologic options
- Patient values and preferences
- Barriers to care²



FORMULATE the patient's medication action plan.

- **STOP** medications when possible³
- **SWITCH** to safer alternatives
- **REDUCE** medications to the lowest effective dose
- Simplify the dosing regimen
- Develop a monitoring plan for medication side effects
- Explore non-pharmacologic options to manage medical conditions
- Incorporate patient preferences and solutions to identified barriers



EDUCATE the patient and caregiver about medication changes and fall prevention strategies. Discuss the following:

- Steps for implementing an action plan
- Reasons for medication changes
- Importance of referrals to specialists
- Other approaches to reduce fall risk



CDC's STEADI tools and resources can help you screen, assess, and intervene to reduce your patient's fall risk.

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

1. Include information about prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, supplements, allergies, alcohol use, and recreational drug use.
2. Examples include low health literacy, physical or cognitive impairment, and socioeconomic barriers that may affect medication adherence.
3. In some instances, gradual dose reduction (tapering) may be advisable.

