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Falls in the Elderly:

Postfall Evaluation Form

Investigating a fall can help determine factors that may be controllable to reduce fall risk.¹ This form offers some questions you may want to ask of patients who have fallen in order to identify any possible environmental causes, lifestyle patterns, or health-related issues that can be addressed to help prevent future falls. This form may help you assess circumstances surrounding the fall prior to conducting a complete medical evaluation.

Postfall Evaluation Form ¹⁻⁴	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Was the patient injured?			
If yes, is the injury considered serious?			
Did the patient lose consciousness before falling?			
Does the patient know why he or she fell?			
Was the patient able to get up after the fall?			
Does the patient have a history of falling?			
Was the patient alone at the time of the fall?			
Have there been recent changes in the patient's medication(s)?			
Were there any obstacles involved in the fall?			
Was there adequate lighting where the fall occurred?			
Was there glare where the fall occurred?			
Were there slippery, wet, or uneven floors where the fall occurred?			
Were there loose or frayed carpets or throw rugs where the fall occurred?			
Was the patient using an assistive device?			
If yes, has the assistive device been correctly fitted for the patient?			
If no, should the patient have been using an assistive device?			
Was the patient wearing appropriate footwear?			
Does the patient use eyewear?			
If yes, was the eyewear being used?			
If yes, has the eyewear been updated for vision and fit recently?			
Were there grab bars or handrails in place when the fall occurred?			

Additional Information:

Where did the fall occur? _____

When did the fall occur? _____

What was the patient doing (eg, walking or sitting) at the time of the fall? _____

References:

1. State of Michigan. *Process Guideline for Evaluation of Falls/Fall Risk*. Lansing, MI: Department of Community Health, State of Michigan; 2004.
2. American Medical Directors Association. Falls and fall risk. <http://www.cpgnews.org/FF/tools.cfm>. Accessed November 19, 2008.
3. Udesky L. 10 questions to ask your parent about a fall. <http://www.caring.com/checklists/questions-to-ask-your-parent-about-falling>. Accessed November 19, 2008.
4. Fuller GF. Falls in the elderly. *Am Fam Physician*. 2000;61:2159-2168. <http://www.aafp.org/afp/20000401/2159.html>. Published April 1, 2000. Accessed November 20, 2008.