

## Check your risk for falling



Share your results with your healthcare provider and let them know you're participating in the SilverSneakers® Well-Balanced program for fall prevention.

## Use this screening tool to check your fall risk.

| Check "Yes" or "No" for each statement below. |      |   | Why it matters  |
|---|------|---|---|
| □ Yes   | □ No | I have fallen in the past year.   | People who have fallen once are likely to fall again.   |
| □ Yes   | □ No | 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   | □ No | Sometimes I feel unsteady when I am walking.  | Unsteadiness or needing support while walking are signs of poor balance.                      |
| □ Yes   | □ No | I steady myself by holding onto furniture when walking at home.                     | This is also a sign of poor balance.  |
| ☐ Yes   | □ No | I am worried about falling.   | People who are worried about falling are more likely to fall.                                 |
| □ Yes   | □ No | 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   | □ No | I have some trouble stepping up onto a curb.  | This is also a sign of weak leg muscles.  |
| □ Yes   | □ No | I often have to rush to the toilet.   | Rushing to the bathroom, especially at night, increases your chance of falling.               |
| □ Yes   | □ No | I have lost some feeling in my feet.  | Numbness in your feet can cause stumbles and lead to falls.                                   |
| □ Yes   | □ No | 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   | □ No | I take medicine to help me sleep or improve my mood.                                | These medicines can sometimes increase your chance of falling.                                |
| □ Yes   | □ No | I often feel sad or depressed.  | Symptoms of depression, such as not feeling well or feeling slowed down, are linked to falls. |
| Total   | l    |   |   |

Add up the number of points for each "yes" answer. If you scored 4 points or more, you may be at risk for falling. **Please take this sheet with you to start a conversation at your next doctor's visit.** 

## Always talk to your doctor before starting an exercise program.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Original materials available for free at www.cdc.gov/steadi.

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