

# Addressing Falls in Your Practice

## DID YOU KNOW?

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related hospitalization and death among Ohioans aged 65 and older.

An older Ohioan falls every two minutes on average, resulting in an injury every five minutes, six emergency department visits and one hospitalization each hour, and three deaths each day.



Approximately 15 percent of Ohio citizens are age 65 or older, yet this group accounts for more than 84 percent of fatal falls.

The total estimated cost of falls (medical costs, work loss) is \$646 million annually in Ohio, or \$1.8 million each day.

## HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR PATIENTS IF THEY'VE FALLEN LATELY?

- Although one out of three people over the age of 65 falls each year, fewer than half of those who fall talk to their healthcare provider about it.
- Doctors and other health care providers like nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists and others, are uniquely positioned to assess their patients' risk and recommend them for additional assessments that can decrease their chance of falls and improve their quality of life.
- Even more alarming, many of the doctors' offices in Ohio are not conducting the Fall Risk Assessments.
- The Falls Risk Assessment is supported by Medicare Reimbursement; thus is a "billable appointment". Risk Assessments can be performed by physicians as well as nurse practitioner, physical therapists and other certified medical staff.

The Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries (**STEADI**) initiative seeks to prevent falls by increasing the number healthcare providers that provide falls risk assessments.

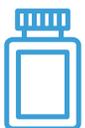
The **STEADI Tool Kit** created by CDC's Injury Center contains resources and tools that will help make fall prevention an integral part of your clinical practice. When built in your EMR system it will give you all the prompts to complete the fall risk assessment.

## WHY SHOULD YOU CONDUCT STEADI ASSESSMENTS

- 01 Welcome to Medicare Examination:** A falls risk assessment is a **required** element of the Welcome to Medicare examination (Initial Patient Preventive Physical Exam or IPPPE).
- 02 Health care providers** are uniquely positioned to assess their patients' risks and recommend them for additional interventions that can decrease their risk of falls and improve their quality of life.
- 03 Annual Wellness Visit (AWV):** Medicare will cover an annual exam and there is no cost-sharing (coinsurance or deductible) for this service.
- 04 The Falls Risk Assessment** is supported by Medicare Reimbursement; thus is a "billable appointment". Risk Assessments can be performed by physicians as well as nurse practitioners, physical therapists, occupational therapists and other certified medical staff.

You can also follow up with your patient by recommending one or more of the following:

**MEDICATION REVIEW**



**VISION SCREENING**



**HOME MODIFICATION**



**EXERCISE**



For more information on how to implement Falls Risk Assessment into your practice visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/steady/>

# Reimbursement Billing Codes for Falls Risk Assessment

The Falls Risk Assessment is reimbursable by Medicare. Risk Assessments can be performed by physicians, nurse practitioners, physical therapists, occupational therapists and other certified medical staff.

Medical Appointment	Code
<b>Welcome to Medicare Examination:</b> A falls risk assessment is a required element of the Welcome to Medicare examination (Initial Patient Preventive Physical Exam or IPPPE).	G0402
<b>Annual Wellness Visit (AWV):</b> Medicare will cover an annual exam and there is no cost-sharing (coinsurance or deductible) for this service. During the initial AWV visit, the health care provider must review a patient's functional ability and level of safety.	G0438 , G0439
<b>As part of a scheduled E/M visit</b>	99213, 99214, 99215

Follow-Up Care		
<b>Durable Medical Equipment</b>		Medicare Part B
Durable medical equipment is defined as reusable equipment that can help to increase mobility and/or decrease risk of falling. Can include such items such as canes, toilets, walkers and wheelchairs;		
<b>Ohio Medicaid - Home Fall Prevention Evaluation</b>		Ohio Medicaid Home Health Benefit (OAC 5101-3-12-01).
<b>A home fall prevention (completed by a physical or occupational therapist) identifies and correct potential hazards to decrease the risk of falling.</b>		
Occupational Therapist	41	97003 - Occupational Therapy Evaluation
<b>Physical Therapist</b>	39	97001 - Physical Therapy Evaluation

PQRS/Quality CPT Coding for Falls	
The Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) is a compliance report based on a set of quality measures. It also incentivizes providers to assess fall risk, create a fall prevention plan if a risk is identified and provide follow- up care if medically necessary and reasonable.	
Eligible healthcare professionals providing services that are paid under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, can be reimbursed through Medicare claims.	
Here are the PQRS Falls Risk Codes:	
No falls/1 fall without injury in past year	1101F
2 or more falls/1 fall with injury in past year	1100F
Fall Risk Assessment completed	3288F
Fall Care Plan documented	0518F