OSCE checklist for community health nursing: falls at home

OSCE checklist for community health nursing: a home falls hazard review considers the person's daily routines and environment as part of wider falls assessment. Use this original practice checklist with your course guidance and supervised skills teaching.

Numbered practice steps

1. Confirm identity using the setting's required identifiers. Introduce yourself as a student, explain the task, obtain consent and perform hand hygiene before contact or equipment use.
2. Ask about the circumstances of falls or near misses and any injury. New collapse, head injury or acute illness needs clinical assessment before a routine home review.
3. Invite the person to describe the routes they use, including getting to the toilet at night. Check lighting, loose rugs, clutter, uneven surfaces and access to help.
4. Observe transfers or mobility only within your competence and with safe support. Ask about footwear, walking aids, vision concerns and fear of falling.
5. Explore medicines and symptoms that may contribute, but refer medicine decisions to the appropriate clinician. Use the local falls assessment and referral pathway.
6. Agree changes the person accepts and refer for occupational therapy or other falls support as indicated. Record who will arrange equipment, review hazards and check progress.
7. Close by checking understanding, ensuring comfort and cleaning your hands and equipment as appropriate. Document findings and hand over any unresolved safety concern to the supervising practitioner.

Common omissions

Removing possessions without agreement can undermine independence. A tidy room does not exclude dizziness or medicine effects. Generic advice to be careful does not identify the actual route or activity causing difficulty.

Try an original practice task

Ask a partner to describe a fall on the way to the bathroom. Map the route verbally and practise agreeing a practical change and a clinical referral.

These steps support learning, rather than authorising independent treatment. Follow your school's task and local policy; ask for help when a decision exceeds your competence.

Related nursing practice

Return to community nursing OSCE practice or use the full checklist directory.

For a related communication exercise, try the falls at home practice station. Its task and clinical setting may differ from this checklist.

Common questions

Is this a school marking sheet?

No. This is an original learning checklist. Your school sets the task and assessment criteria.

Can I print this checklist?

Yes. Use the PDF download on this page for practice.

Sources

- NMC: The Code
- NICE NG249: falls assessment and prevention

Checked 2026-11-13. Fees and rules change, so confirm them with the regulator before you book.