

# Why Fall TIPS is Based on the Morse Fall Scale

Fall TIPS is the only fall prevention tool that integrates clinical decision support to link the Morse Fall Scale (MFS)<sup>1</sup> risk factors to evidence-based interventions. Using Fall TIPS, nurses with any level of expertise can create an evidence-based fall prevention plan personalized to each individual patient's fall risk factors.<sup>2</sup>



Below, we summarize the rationale for using the MFS as the basis for the Fall TIPS Tool.

**1. Compared to other fall risk assessment scales, the MFS comprehensively and parsimoniously (e.g., no risk factors that are not actionable) addresses the six common predictors of inpatient falls as identified by Oliver et al (2004).<sup>3</sup>**

	Common Predictors of Inpatient Falls (Oliver et al, 2004)					
	Previous fall history	Gait instability	Lower limb weakness	Urinary incontinence, frequency, and/or the need for toileting	Agitation, confusion or impaired judgment	Medications especially sedative hypnotics
EPFRAT	X	X		X	X	X
WSFRAT	X	X	X	X	X	X
Baptist	X	X		X	X	X
MFS	X	X	X*	X*	X	X*
Hendrich II		X	X	X	X	X
Schmid	X	X		X	X	X
Hopkins	X	X		X	X	X

\*Assessed as part of multiple co-morbid diagnoses and IV/heplock

**2. The MFS was validated using rigorous methods and excludes risk factors that are not actionable.**

- Other fall risk assessments were validated using the same dataset from which the tool was developed. Tool development should include prospective validation on a different set of patients.
- Comparisons of risk assessment tools have been completed using just retrospective chart review. This is not valid, as risk assessment requires direct observation of the patient.
- Some fall risk assessments include risk factors that are not actionable, such as age and gender. This information cannot be linked to an evidence-based intervention and prevent a fall.

**3. There is a large body of evidence supporting use of the MFS in general medical and surgical settings to prevent falls.** Email us below for more literature on the MFS.

Questions? Contact [PHSFallTIPS@partners.org](mailto:PHSFallTIPS@partners.org)

<sup>1</sup> Morse, J.M. Preventing Patient Falls. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York, NY: Springer, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Dykes, P.C., et al., *Fall prevention in acute care hospitals: a randomized trial.* JAMA, 2010. **304**(17): p. 1912-8.

<sup>3</sup> Oliver, D., et al., *Risk factors and risk assessment tools for falls in hospital in-patients: a systematic review.* Age Ageing, 2004. **33**(2): p. 122-30.