

Using the Morse Fall Scale Risk Factors to Plan Interventions to Prevent Patient Falls



This table summarizes the interventions you should be considering with Morse Fall Scale¹ area of risk. It does not include the scoring because with Fall TIPS, even the patients at low risk for falls are going to get an interventions(s) to mitigate each areas of risk that is positive.

Area of Risk from MFS	Interventions
History of falling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety precautions • Communicate risk status via plan of care, change of shift report and signage. • Document/communicate circumstances of previous fall.
Secondary diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider factors which may increase risk for falls: illness/ medication timing and side effects such as dizziness, frequent urination, unsteadiness.
Ambulatory aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambulatory aid at bedside if appropriate. • Consider PT consult.
IV therapy/ heparin (saline) lock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement toileting/rounding schedule. • Instruct patient to call for help with toileting. • Review side-effects of IV medications and IV fluid.
Gait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with out of bed. • Consider PT consult.
Mental status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bed alarm/chair alarm • Place patient in visible location • Encourage family presence • Frequent rounding

Questions? Contact PHSFallTIPS@partners.org

¹. Morse, J.M. *Preventing Patient Falls*. (2nd ed). New York, NY: Springer, 2008.