

STUDENT HANDOUT
Home Safety Assessment Guide

DIRECTIONS: In addition to conducting the assessment (indicating with a where met), make comments on safety issues identified (items unmet) and suggest ways that the environment could be made safer for the client/family and members of the health care team.

<p>General Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Is there adequate lighting outside and inside the home?<input type="checkbox"/> Are walkways and stairs dry, in good repair, and clear of clutter?<input type="checkbox"/> Are any pets in the home restrained during your visit?<input type="checkbox"/> Is the home generally clean and fairly tidy?<input type="checkbox"/> Do you note the absence of unpleasant odours?<input type="checkbox"/> Are there smoke detectors and a fire extinguisher in the house?<input type="checkbox"/> Are there no indicators of hazardous chemicals in the house?<input type="checkbox"/> Is it possible to keep the house well-ventilated?<input type="checkbox"/> Are the materials and equipment required to care for the client (e.g. lift equipment) available and in working order?<input type="checkbox"/> Is the environment smoke free during your visit (no one smoking in the home while you are there or one hour prior)?<input type="checkbox"/> Are there indicators of use of illegal drugs by anyone in the home?<input type="checkbox"/> Do you feel safe entering this house?<input type="checkbox"/> What forms of security are in place to ensure your safety during the visit (e.g., locks, escape routes, mechanism for communication with your supervisor/employer)?<input type="checkbox"/> Do you feel safe while inside the home (e.g., in terms of the client, other people in the home, weapons inside the home, etc.)?
<p>Comments:</p>
<p>Living Room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Are area rugs tacked down?<input type="checkbox"/> Are electrical cords safely out of the way and not frayed (check throughout the home)?<input type="checkbox"/> Have newspapers, magazines or other flammable objects been removed?<input type="checkbox"/> Is the lighting adequate?
<p>Comments:</p>

Kitchen

- Are kitchen appliances in good working order?
- Is the kitchen clean? Look both externally and in cupboards and drawers, in the oven and microwave, and in the refrigerator.
- Are appropriate cleaning products and equipment available?
- Have spoiled foods been removed from the refrigerator?
- Are there any indicators of rodent infestations?

Comments:

Bathroom

- Does the size of the bathroom contribute to safety (e.g., availability of space to manoeuvre during caregiving procedures)?
- Are grab bars available by the tub and toilet (if needed)?
- Is the height of the toilet appropriate for client needs?
- Does the location and height of the tub contribute to safe caregiving practice?
- Is there a rubber mat in the tub?
- Is there a bath bench or bath chair?
- Is there a hand-held shower head?
- Is the lighting adequate?

Comments:

Bedroom

- Is the height and location of the bed appropriate for safe caregiving practice?
- Is there adequate space to manoeuvre during caregiving procedures?
- Is the lighting adequate?

Comments: