



The following is a general list of Intrinsic Risk Factors that may increase a patient's risk for falling.

Previous Fall

Studies have cited a history of falls as a significant factor associated with patients being more likely to fall again.

Reduced Vision

Vision affected by, for example, a decline in visual acuity, decreased night vision, altered depth perception, decline in peripheral vision, or glare intolerance.

Unsteady Gait

Patient's manner and style of walking.

Musculoskeletal System

Impact from factors such as muscle atrophy, calcification of tendons and ligaments, and increased curvature of the spine (osteoporosis) are associated with ability to maintain balance and proper posture.

Mental Status

Status affected by confusion, disorientation, inability to understand, and impaired memory.

Acute Illnesses

Rapid onset of symptoms associated with seizures, stroke, orthostatic hypotension, and febrile conditions.

Chronic Illnesses

Conditions such as arthritis, cataracts, glaucoma, dementia, diabetes and Parkinsonism.

Source: Premier Inc.: Fall Prevention: Causes of Falls, 2006. <http://www.premierinc.com/quality-safety/tools-services/safety/topics/falls/>. Copyright 2007 Carroll Hospital Group.