

Learning Objectives

MedBridge

Assessing Risk of Falls: Too Many Choices!

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Course Objectives:

- Understand using Sn and Sp values and their derivatives to determine how well a test/measure estimates fall risk
- Plan and justify a fall risk screening strategy for community living older adults
- Plan and justify a detailed fall risk assessment strategy for older adults at risk of falling
- Classify key functional measures of fall risk based on what aspect of balance they measure and evidence of their measurement properties
- Interpret and analyze the results in order to write a comprehensive assessment

Chapter 1: Why Bother with Psychometric Properties in Balance Testing?

This chapter introduces participants to concepts of pre and post test probability in the “diagnosis” of risk of falling in community living older adults.

Chapter 2: Recommendations for Screening

This chapter summarizes best current available evidence for screening community living older adults with regard to risk of falling.

Chapter 3: Fall Risk Assessment: History Interview

In this chapter, examples of questions to be used in intake interview of multifactorial assessment of fall risk are provided.

Chapter 4: What Does the Evidence Say: Key Intake Questionnaires

Chapter four provides an overview of two questionnaires that assess balance confidence and depression, both key risk factors for future falls.

Chapter 5: Fall Risk Assessment: Functional Measures

This chapter provides an overview of five functional performance measures supported by the best available evidence currently available, and highlights several impairment-level risk factors that can further inform evaluation, goal setting, and intervention planning.

Chapter 6: Does Your Documentation Demonstrate Clinical Reasoning and Justify the Need for Intervention?

The final chapter of this course provides a framework that clinicians can use to demonstrate clinical reasoning and justify medical necessity.