

Environmental sweeps are a vital part of the fall prevention process. Before leaving a resident unattended, take the time to address the following items to reduce fall risk.

Engagement.

- I have engaged in a conversation with the resident at eye level and addressed unmet needs.
 - Toileting.
 - Activities.
 - Food/beverage.
 - Pain.
- The resident is calm and ready to be left alone.

Continence care.

- I have prompted the resident to visit the restroom and/or checked for incontinence.
- Incontinence products are the proper type and fit.
- I have placed appropriate clothing on the lower body.

Positioning.

- I have positioned the resident in their preferred and/or safe location.
 - I have considered time spent in bed or wheelchair and reposition as needed.
 - I have considered fall history from the bed, wheelchair, or recliner.
- The resident has a clear pathway to exit the room and access the restroom.

Resident-specific items.

- Items of interest are within reach (books, magazines, phone, etc.).
- Room lighting is appropriate for the time of day and resident activity.
- The resident is wearing preferred and safe clothing.
 - Nonslip socks, appropriate footwear, pajamas.
- Television is on or off based on resident preference.
 - If on, channel suits resident's interests, the volume is appropriate, and remote is within reach.
- Bedroom door is open/closed.
- Placement of fall mat, if applicable, is appropriate.
 - Mat is under the bed during the day for ambulatory residents or those who self-transfer from wheelchair.
 - Mat is alongside bed during the evening/sleeping for fall protection.

Mobility aids.

- If able to self-transfer, the device is locked and positioned appropriately.
- If unable to self-transfer, the device is out of view.
- Extra mobility aids have been removed from the room.