

# Universal Fall Prevention Strategies

## The following interventions apply to all patients:

- Orient patient to surroundings, including bathroom location, use of bed, and call light (on admission and with room / location changes).
- Place call light and frequently needed objects within reach of patient.
- Encourage patient / families to call for assistance.
- Keep eyeglasses regularly cleaned and accessible.
- Use properly fitting, nonskid footwear or socks.
- Keep floors clutter / obstacle free (with attention to path between bed and bathroom / commode).
- Remove excess equipment / supplies / furniture from rooms and hallways (e.g. IV poles).
- Coil and secure excess electrical and telephone wires.
- Clean all spills in patient room or in hallway immediately. Place signage to indicate wet floor danger.
- Keep bed in lowest position unless impractical (as in ICU or specialty beds).
- Secure locks on beds, stretchers, and wheelchairs.
- Provide adequate lighting, especially at night.
- Provide patient / family education on fall prevention and safety measures, document education provided and extent to which patient and family understand.