

10 Questions To Ask at the Time a Resident Falls

Stay with resident and call for a nurse.

- 1. Ask the resident, “Are you OK?”**
- 2. Ask the resident, “What were you trying to do?”**
- 3. Ask the resident or determine, “What was different this time?”**
- 4. What is the position of the resident?**
 - Did they fall near a bed, toilet or chair? How far away?
 - Are they on their back, front, left side, or right side?
 - What is the position of their arms and legs?
- 5. What was the surrounding area like?**
 - Was it noisy, busy, or cluttered?
 - If the resident fell in the bathroom, what were the contents of the toilet?
 - Was there poor lighting? What was the resident’s visibility?
 - What was the position of the furniture and equipment such as canes, walkers, and wheelchairs?
 - Was the bed height correct?
- 6. What was the floor like?**
 - Was the floor wet? Was there urine on the floor? Was the floor uneven? Was the floor shiny?
 - Was there carpet, tile, or linoleum?
- 7. What was the resident’s apparel?**
 - Was the resident wearing shoes, socks (non-skid?), slippers, or bare feet?
 - **Was the resident wearing poorly fitting clothes?**
- 8. Was the resident using an assistive device? Specify whether it was a walker, cane, wheelchair, merry walker, or other.**
- 9. Was the resident wearing glasses and/or hearing aides?**
- 10. Who was in the area when the resident fell?**

Adapted from the EMPIRA’s 10 Questions, by Sue Ann Guildermann