

Home Safety

Home safety evaluation begins as you approach the patient's home. You will be looking for safe access and egress from the home as well as many other items. One of the areas you will be focusing on will be the patient's ability to move **SAFELY** around their home. This would include assessing ambulation, transfers bed, chair, toilet, shower, and up and down stairs if applicable.

Functional assessment items on the Oasis related to home safety include:

- **Ambulation**
- **Transfers**
- **Bathing**

Guidelines for accurate assessment

- **IT DOES NOT MATTER IF THE PATIENT LIVES ALONE**
- **IT DOES NOT MATTER IF THE PATIENT COMPLETES THE TASK – IT MATTERS IF THEY ARE SAFELY COMPLETING THE TASK**
- Consider ability prior to making any changes or recommendations
- Score from the bottom up
- Consider the home environment when assessing safety i.e. stairs/railing present or not , narrow doorways, location of current sleeping surface and a sitting surface
- Consider the patients physical, mental, cognitive ability, and activities permitted
- Consider sensory impairments impaired- vision or pain

Goal of Home Safety Evaluation

- To promote a safe environment for the patient to move around in
- Through a thorough assessment of the environment and recommendations made to the patient and caregivers we can promote a safer home environment

Functional Assessment SOC/ROC

Consider the following questions when assessing the patient's ability to move around safely

- Does the patient have balance problems?
- Is the patient in severe pain?
- Does the patient require an assistive device?
- Does the patient have the correct assistive device?
- Is the patient using the walls and furniture when ambulating?
- Would you feel better if the patient had supervision when mobile?
- Does the patient require verbal cues for ambulation and transfers to be safe?
- Is there clutter in the pathways?

If you said yes to any of the above questions the answer is that the patient is not safe and independent with mobility around the home.

Narrate the Care with Language Related to the HHCAHPS Survey

- I will be **talking with you** about how to set up your home so you can move around safely.
- I will be performing a home safety evaluation so we can talk about how to safely set up your home.
- I will assess if you are safely moving around the home.
- I will make recommendations on how to set up your home to make it as safe as possible.
- I will recommend that you remove scatter rugs so you can safely move around with your assistive device in your home.
- I will recommend that you have clear pathways so you can safely move around your home.
- I will recommend that you do not have any wires or trip hazards in your pathways so you can safely move around your home.
- I will recommend adaptive equipment so you can safely move around your home and perform transfers.