

Home Safety Concerns

<p>Identify the Problem</p>	<p>PROBLEM: Home Safety Concerns (falls, guns, knives, stoves, leaving the person alone)</p> <p>GOAL/EXPECTED OUTCOME: To increase personal and home safety</p>
<p>Explore</p>	<p>ASSESS FURTHER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a home safety assessment been conducted? • Is the person ever left alone in the home? • Does the person cook on his/her own? • Does the person bathe on his/her own? • Does the person take medications by him/herself? • Does the person smoke? • Does the person have access to dangerous or hazardous items, such as medications, cleaning products, knives, guns, sharp tools, matches, etc.? • Is there a lot of stuff on the floors that could be tripped over? • Are there grab bars, hand rails, adjusted toilets or beds in the home? • Does the person use assistive equipment, such as a wheelchair, cane, walker, or lift? • Who would the caregiver call if he/she needed help? • What would the caregiver do in an emergency?
<p>Adjust</p> <p>Problem solve with interventions and actions</p>	<p>TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGIES TO CAREGIVER:</p> <p>Prevention and safety-proofing the home is important. The goal is to make the environment safe <i>before</i> an accident happens. Remember: people with Alzheimer’s can have compromised judgment and ordinarily “safe” and “normal” household items can become hazards (i.e., knives, appliances, cleaning products, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider home adjustments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Install grab bars by the toilet and in the shower ○ Use equipment such as hand rails, ramps, adjusted toilets or beds, wheelchair, cane, walker, and lifts, as needed ○ Remove things that can easily break and are not needed ○ Provide enough lighting (stairwells and the doorway to the bathroom should be brightly lit day and night) ○ Unplug the kitchen disposal ○ Inexpensive motion detectors can alert the caregiver when the person enters a room where they should not be or gets out of bed • Look at the floor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remove small rugs, rugs that are thick, or rugs that might slide ○ Remove low pieces of furniture that may not be easily seen ○ Don’t shine or wax floors ○ Keep items off of the floor that can be tripped over (cords, books, toys, boxes, etc.) ○ Make sure the bathroom and kitchen floors are kept dry and avoid walking on them with wet feet ○ Use tables and chairs that are stable enough to lean on • Remove dangerous items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep knives, scissors, guns, sharp tools, matches and lighters (and cigarettes) in a locked area

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep all medications (prescriptions, vitamins, aspirin, etc.) locked up ○ Razors and nail clippers should be locked up and out of sight ○ Move all cleaning supplies to a high shelf or lock them away ○ Take off stove/oven knobs; use baby locks to secure items in cabinets ○ If total abstinence from smoking is not possible, then watch the person closely when smoking ○ Remove potentially toxic indoor plants ● Don't leave the person alone. Consider safety risks, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stove/oven, running water in the kitchen ○ Running water unattended/scolding hot water in the bathroom ○ Burning cigarettes, cigars, pipes, candles ○ Opened or unlocked doors or gates – risk of wandering/getting lost <p>CLINICAL SUPPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If there is any concern about possible safety issues, neglect or harm within the home, follow standard of practice, policies, procedures, and reporting mandates ● Refer to PCP for assistive equipment ● Refer to PT/OT to ensure correct use of assistive equipment <p>CAREGIVER SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Listen empathically to caregiver and evaluate for level of distress ● Refer to IHSS ● Refer to Home and Community-Based Services Planning and Management (HCBS CPM) formerly MSSP ● Refer to agencies that provide low-cost home modifications ● Refer to Alzheimer's Los Angeles for support groups, disease education, and care consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ALZ Direct Connect® referral ○ Provide Helpline #: 844.HELP.ALZ 844.435.7259 ○ Website: www.alzheimersla.org ● Local Community Resources: _____ ● Send literature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Caregiver Tip Sheet – "Keeping Home Safe" (English and Spanish) ○ Home Safety Assessment <p>FOLLOW UP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schedule a phone call with caregiver to discuss outcomes and provide additional support
	<p>NOTES:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>