

WHO table of roles and responsibilities of those working with people who have had a fall

This table was developed by the World Health Organisation in 2007 [76], and is based on Appendix 4 of Cryer C. 2001. Accidental Injury Task Force Working Group on Older People. London United Kingdom. Accessed 10/12/2007 http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4072216

Geriatricians (rheumatologists, orthopaedic surgeons, emergency department doctors)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › individualise programs in rehabilitation and outpatient packages › review ward (hospital) environment › identify reversible contributory factors and suggest evidence-based interventions › investigate risk of osteoporosis and treat as necessary › consider encouraging patients to use hip protectors
Emergency department medical staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › assess main risk factors and implement appropriate referral and advice › arrange follow up of older patients seen because of a fall and refer to a specialised outpatient hospital-based falls service, if available
Health authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › implement a falls risk assessment for all older patients being admitted to hospital › devise a protocol for reviewing reversible risk factors for high-risk individuals › initiate prompt questions in any data collection practices › establish a specialised outpatient hospital-based falls service › support the role of the physiotherapy services rehabilitation of fallers › consider falls and fracture prevention as a joint strategy

Primary health care teams

- › include individualised risk assessment in care package for frail older people
- › encourage patients to be physically active
- › review medications and physical activity of at risk residents of care facilities
- › investigate the risk of osteoporosis and treat as necessary

Voluntary organisations (NGOs) providing services for older people

- › include Tai Chi in the activities offered
- › promote leisure activities involving movement

Managers and staff of residential care facilities for older people

- › organise exercise sessions or physical activity options for residents
- › review the home environment for safety
- › assess residents after a fall for reversible risk factors
- › encourage residents to use hip protectors

Sports and physical activity departments/centres

- › make Tai Chi sessions and other appropriate activities available in community settings
- › train specialised exercise instructors in effective fall prevention exercise
- › promote leisure activities involving movement

Federal government

- › prioritise falls prevention in national targets for injury prevention
- › prioritise falls and fracture prevention in health provision for older people
- › prioritise health promotion information and policy on physical activity among older people
- › advocate the inclusion of injury prevention issues in pre-retirement courses
- › support nationally recognised training in delivery of appropriate forms of physical activity.