

Talking To Your Doctor About Falls: 6 Tips for Helpful Conversations

More than one in four older adults falls each year, but only half tell their doctor. It is important for your doctor to know about any health problems, including concerns about balance and falls. Get the most out of your conversations with these six tips.

- 1. Write a list of things you want to talk about.** Before your appointment, create a list of health topics you want to talk about, including balance and falls. The outline will help you remember your conversation points and questions.
- 2. Ask for a falls risk assessment.** If you have fallen, have trouble walking, or feel unsteady, talk to your doctor about having a falls risk assessment.
- 3. Talk about other specialists.** Ask your doctor if you would benefit from seeing a physical therapist, occupational therapist, or other specialists to help improve balance, strength, medication use, nutrition, vision, and hearing to reduce your risk of falls.
- 4. Be honest about your concerns.** Tell your doctor if you have fallen and share as many details as possible. The more your doctor knows, the more they can help you.
- 5. Take notes—and ask for notes!** Bring a notepad and pen to write down any important information your doctor shares with you. This helps to remind you of information shared during the appointment.
- 6. Ask your doctor questions.** If there is anything you do not understand, ask your doctor again. Repeating information back to the doctor will help you remember and let the doctor know you understand the information.