### 3G: STRATIFY Scale for Identifying Fall Risk Factors

**Background:** This tool can be used to identify risk factors for falls in hospitalized patients. The total score may be used to predict future falls, but it is more important to identify risk factors using the scale and then plan care to address those risk factors.

**Reference:** Adapted from Oliver D, Britton M, Seed P, et al. Development and evaluation of evidence based risk assessment tool (STRATIFY) to predict which elderly inpatients will fall: case-control and cohort studies. BMJ 1997;315(7115):1049-53. Reprinted with permission from BMJ Group.

**How to use this tool:** Please fill out the scale as instructed below. This tool can be used by staff nurses.

Use this tool in conjunction with clinical assessment and a review of medications (see Tool 3I) to determine if a patient is at risk for falls and plan care accordingly. Note that this scale may not capture the risk factors that are most important on your hospital ward, so consider your local circumstances.

If your hospital uses an electronic health record, consult your hospital’s information systems staff about integrating this tool into the electronic health record.

##### STRATIFY Risk Assessment Tool

Answer all five questions below and count the number of “Yes” answers.

| 1 | Did the patient present to hospital with a fall or has he or she fallen on the ward since admission (**recent history of fall**)? | Yes = 1 | No = 0 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2 | Is the patient **agitated**? | Yes = 1 | No = 0 |
| 3 | Is the patient **visually impaired** to the extent that everyday function is affected? | Yes = 1 | No = 0 |
| 4 | Is the patient in need of especially **frequent toileting**? | Yes = 1 | No = 0 |
| 5 | Does the patient have a combined **transfer and mobility** score of 3 or 4? (calculate below) | Yes = 1 | No = 0 |
| *Transfer score*: Choose **one** of the following options which best describes the patient’s level of capability when transferring from a bed to a chair:0 = Unable1 = Needs major help2 = Needs minor help3 = Independent |
| *Mobility score*: Choose **one** of the following options which best describes the patient’s level of mobility:0 = Immobile1 = Independent with the aid of a wheelchair2 = Uses walking aid or help of one person3 = Independent |
| *Combined score* (**transfer + mobility**): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  |
| Total score from questions 1-5: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_0 = Low risk 1 = Moderate risk2 or above = High risk |