

Timed Up & Go Test

The “Timed Up & Go” (TUG) test is an assessment that should be conducted as part of a routine evaluation when dealing with older persons. Its purpose is to detect “fallers” and to identify those who need evaluation.

The staff should be trained to perform the TUG at check-in and query those with gait or balance problems for falls.

INITIAL CHECK

All older persons who report a single fall should be observed and timed with a stopwatch as they:

- From a sitting position in a standard office chair (46 cm seat height):
 - Walk 3 meters at a comfortable, safe pace using customary walking aid
 - Turn, and return to the chair.
 - Sit back in the chair

Individuals who have difficulty completing the above in less than 10 seconds or demonstrate unsteadiness performing this test require further assessment.

FOLLOW-UP ASSESSMENT

In the follow-up assessment, ask the person to:

- Sit.
- Stand without using their arms for support.
- Close their eyes for a few seconds, while standing in place.
- Stand with eyes closed, while you push gently on his or her sternum.
- Walk a short distance and come to a complete stop.
- Turn around and return to the chair.
- Sit in the chair without using their arms for support.

While conducting the test, pay attention to abnormal movements. As you observe, answer the questions below. Record your assessment in the Yes or No boxes and/or on the “Falls Evaluation: Initial Visit” form.

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Follow-Up Assessment Observations		
• Is the person steady and balanced when sitting upright?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
• Is the person able to stand with the arms folded?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
• When standing, is the person steady in narrow stance?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
• With eyes closed, does the person remain steady?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
• When nudged, does the person recover without difficulty?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
• Does person start walking without hesitancy?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
• When walking, does each foot clear the floor well?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
• Is there step symmetry, with the steps equal length and regular?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
• Does the person take continuous, regular steps?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
• Does the person walk straight without a walking aid?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
• Does the person stand with heels close together?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
• Is the person able to sit safely and judge distance correctly?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
• Is the person obviously fearful or anxious during assessment?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Observations		