

SLP-chosen for you, from the Nicespeechlady.com library SPEECH PATHOLOGY PATIENT: _____

SPEECH PATHOLOGIST: _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: _____

_____ DATE: _____



HANDOUT-ABLE: Safety Concerns to Consider for Patients with Cognitive Issues

- Ask the medical provider for an occupational therapist, physical therapist or nurse to come into the home to perform a home safety evaluation.
- Put into place all safety recommendation by this occupational therapist, physical therapist or nurse. Ask questions for full understanding of the recommendations.
- Keep walkways clear of any walking barriers.
- Keep assistive devices such as walkers, canes, hemi-walkers, wheelchairs — always within easy reach that is safe.
- Keep drawers closed to prevent tripping or bruising.
- Keep all doors closed to prevent tripping or bruising.
- If the patient demonstrates a significant fall risk, strategically place sturdy chairs all around the house for the patient to sit to take a break if they lose their balance. Explain the purpose of these chairs being placed where they are, and model for the patient how to utilize them.
- Avoid loose-long sleeves to prevent clothing from catching on something, causing a snag or burning or spilling.
- Take care that there is adequate lighting.
- Remove all scatter rugs, if at all possible, this is a tripping hazard.
- Repair frayed carpets.
- Tack down or tape loose carpet edges.
- Take care that the toilet and bed are the proper height.
- Utilize a nightlight for night vision.

SLP-chosen for you, from the Nicespeechlady.com library SPEECH PATHOLOGY PATIENT: _____

SPEECH PATHOLOGIST: _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: _____

_____ DATE: _____



- Take care that there is a good system in place for waste disposal, and clutter control.
- Keep a flashlight available for nighttime, and available/within easily within reach.
- If oxygen is in use, take care that tubing is not kinked and that it is clear of direct walkways as much as possible.
- Take care that there are no electric cords under rugs, if rugs have to be in place (avoid rugs if possible).
- Take care that there are working smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors.
- If oxygen is in use, take care that there are no spark-producing devices in the home.
- Have an emergency exit plan created, plans for where to evacuate to in the event of an emergency, and details of who to call established.
- Clean up spills immediately to avoid slips/falls.
- Consider arranging furniture to allow for walking to occur safely between all rooms, and within them.
- Take care that there is no lead paint present.
- If the patient uses oxygen, no open flames or smoking should ever occur. Have a plan for where to smoke; have a plan for open flames if they are needed — keep them outside.
- Do not overload plug-ins.
- Consider unplugging appliance when they are not in use.
- Place safety standing strips or non-skid mats in showers and bathtubs.
- Install good quality/sturdy grab bars in bathrooms. Do not allow for towels racks or other items to be utilized in the manner, as it is not safe.
- Consider only using a sturdy and safe step-stool for the ability to reach high places. Do not make available standing on chairs to reach items.