

Geriatric Assessment for Nurses

Clinical guide: Socioenvironmental Assessment of the Older People

Clinical Guide
Learning outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Describe key components of socioenvironmental assessment in older adults.● Conduct a structured socioenvironmental interview.● Assess home and community environment for safety and accessibility.● Identify social determinants of health affecting older adults.● Recognize environmental risks related to falls, poor nutrition, isolation, and neglect.
Tools for the assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Home Falls and Accidents Screening Tool (Home FAST)● Environmental Checklist for Older Adults● Social Isolation Screening Tools●  EASI (Elder Abuse Screening Index)
Key Components of Socioenvironmental Assessment
<p>Social assessment</p> <p>Family structure and support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Who lives with the older adult?● Availability of caregivers● Frequency of family visits or calls● Cultural or religious support systems <p>1 2. Social Networks & Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Friends and neighbors● Participation in community, religious groups, clubs● Loneliness or social isolation● Support during illness <p>2 3. Elder Abuse & Neglect Screening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Financial exploitation● Emotional or physical abuse● Neglect or self-neglect● Use tools such as EASI (Elder Abuse Suspicion Index) <p>3 B. Economic/Financial Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Monthly income sources (pension, savings, family support)● Ability to afford food, medications, transport● Health insurance or government benefits● Risk of financial hardship

4 C. Environmental Assessment

5 1. Home Safety Checklist

Students should inspect:

Indoor Hazards

- Poor lighting
- Slippery floors
- Loose rugs
- Clutter
- Lack of grab bars
- Unsafe bathroom/toilet
- Stairs without rails
- Poor ventilation

Outdoor Hazards

- Uneven pathways
- Insecure steps
- Lack of railings
- Poor lighting

6 2. Assistive Devices & Accessibility

- Walking aids (cane, walker)
- Raised toilet seats
- Bed rails
- Hearing aids/glasses
- Medication organizers
- Accessibility of home entrances

7 D. Community Environment & Resources

- Distance to clinic/pharmacy
- Transport availability
- Senior clubs/day centers
- Home care and physiotherapy services
- Social services (welfare officers, public health inspectors)

8 E. Cultural & Spiritual Assessment

- Cultural values and beliefs impacting care
- Religious involvement
- Rituals and practices important to wellbeing

Preperation of the studnets

Before entering clinical or community settings, students review:

Aging-related social determinants of health

WHO Age-friendly Cities Framework

Home safety checklists

Communication with older adults

Assessment criteria for students

- Communication with older person
- Completeness of socioenvironmental assessment
- Ability to identify risks
- Problem-solving and intervention planning
- Accuracy of documentation
- Professionalism and empathy