


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

Preparation of the students

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