

Duke MOVES Tip – Ambulatory



Some falls can be avoided.

Even if patients are able to walk, they may not be safe due to a physical condition or a physiological event. For example:

- Seizures
- Syncope (passing out)
- Dizziness
- New onset of weakness
- New onset of stroke symptoms
- Active GI bleeding
- Low hemoglobin and hematocrit
- Awaiting or receiving blood transfusion
- Low blood pressure (SBP <90 mmHg)
- Orthostatic hypotension (BP drops with standing)

Tips to help patients prevent falls:

1. Offer to transport them in wheelchair.
2. Consider using a lift to obtain weight and transfer onto commode or exam table.