

Scenarios

falls prevention

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Scenario 1

Flo is a 75 year old woman living on her own with her two small dogs – Peggy and Ernie. She has home care weekly. You arrive for on your usual Wednesday morning to see Flo carefully manoeuvring her wheeling frame walker down her two back steps with her small bucket of water to give her prized geraniums a drink. When you empty your mop bucket you have to step over the water running out of the bottom of the geranium pot...she must have over watered again!

Flo loves her garden as much as she does a talk. She always likes to share a cuppa with you and insists on making it herself. You watch as she shuffles around her small kitchen, filling the kettle at the sink and the sitting it on her frame to take it across to the bench. She uses her small step chair to reach up to her 'special biscuits' she always brings out for you. She has become very confident in her ability to balance the tea tray and the likes on her walking frame and get them over to the table without spilling a drop.

What do you see as a hazard (s) and what can you do?

Scenario 2

John is an 83 year old who cares for his wife, Pat who had a stroke 2 years ago. He is a lovely man who always has his wife's best interest at heart. You come to John and Pat's house regularly. John is responsible for preparing his wife's medication each day, and you often see him reach into the small cupboard above the stove to retrieve the 2-litre ice-cream container full of tablets to sort out her morning medication.

After he sorts Pat out he often puts the kettle on for a cuppa, where he takes his own medications he leaves on the window sill near the kettle to remind him to take it in the mornings. He tells you he has been feeling quite good lately as he started taking some vitamin tablets his daughter told him about and this new herbal drink that tastes terrible but must be good for him.

What do you see as a hazard (s) and what can you do?

Scenario 3

Your client Mavis is 94 and lives on her own. She has lived in the community all her life and in this house for the last 73 years. She is an avid reader, be it newspapers, magazines or books. In fact you think she has the last 20 years of mail times stacked up in her sitting room. Her walls are lined with books and antiques. You can see when she sits as there are endless cords that run from the only power point in the room to the chair to power the light and the small bar heater.

She has several pairs of glasses lying about the house; all of which seem very scratched and you often notice she has tape holding one or more of the arms on. As a survivor of the war years, she is often telling you that people these days are too quick to throw perfectly good things out. This may be the theory she is also applying to her floor coverings which have many worn patches, which she covers over with a mat.

What do you see as a hazard (s) and what can you do?