## **STAY INDEPENDENT: PREVENT FALLS**

# Take Action:







Falls aren't just a normal part of getting older—they're preventable and there are simple steps you can take to stay independent longer.



#### Talk openly with your doctor about fall risks and prevention.

- Tell your doctor right away if you have fallen, or if you're afraid you might fall, or if you feel unsteady.
- Work together and review all of your medications and discuss any side effects like feeling dizzy or sleepy.
- See if taking vitamin D supplements for improved bone, muscle, and nerve health is right for you.



Activities that strengthen your legs and help your balance (like Tai Chi) can help you prevent falls.



Have your vision checked once a year and update your glasses as needed.



### Most falls happen at home.

- Keep your floors clutter free.
- Remove small rugs or tape down or secure them.
- Add grab bars in the bathroom.
- Have handrails and lights installed on all staircases.
- Make sure your home has lots of light.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

#### RESOURCES

**STEADI Initiative:** 

cdc.gov/steadi

CDC:

cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalsafety/falls/ adultfalls.html **STEADI Patient Materials:** cdc.gov/steadi/patient.html

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National Council on Aging Falls Prevention (NCOA): .ncoa.org/healthy-aging/falls-prevention/