

NC Department of Health and Human Services

NC Home Care Aide Curriculum

Module 13 – Patient Safety

July 2021

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Identify common causes of home accidents and safety measures that could prevent home accidents**
- 2. Explain the role of the home care aide in fall prevention and how to respond to falls**
- 3. Explain equipment related accidents and the role of the home care aide in preventing those accidents**
- 4. Identify signs and symptoms of caregiver burnout**
- 5. Identify various forms of abuse**
- 6. Explain what to do in the case of suspected abuse of a patient**

MODULE 13-A

FALL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE



FALLS AND THE OLDER ADULT

- Falls are the most common type of accident for the elderly home care patient.
- There are many factors that can contribute to falls.



HANDOUT #1

CDC Facts about Falls



HANDOUT #2

Falls in North Carolina



FALL SAFETY MEASURES

What are some safety measures that help prevent falls at home?



Household Accidents (1)

FIRES AND BURNS



Household Accidents (2)

UNINTENTIONAL POISONING



HANDOUT #3

Home Safety Assessment



ACTIVITY #1

How many hazards can you spot?



MODULE 13-B

Equipment Safety



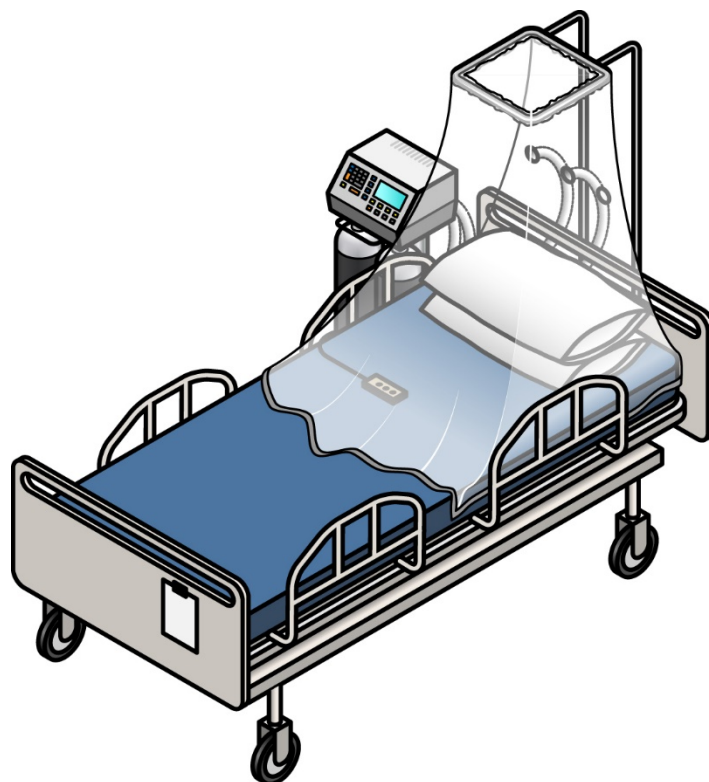
MOBILITY EQUIPMENT

- **Safely using equipment with a patient can aid in reducing accidents and falls**
- **Canes and walkers**
- **Wheelchairs**



BEDS

Side rails on beds



MOVING ABOUT THE HOME

Hand Rails and Grab Bars



ACTIVITY #2

SCENARIOS



ACTIVITY #3

SAFETY CONCERNS



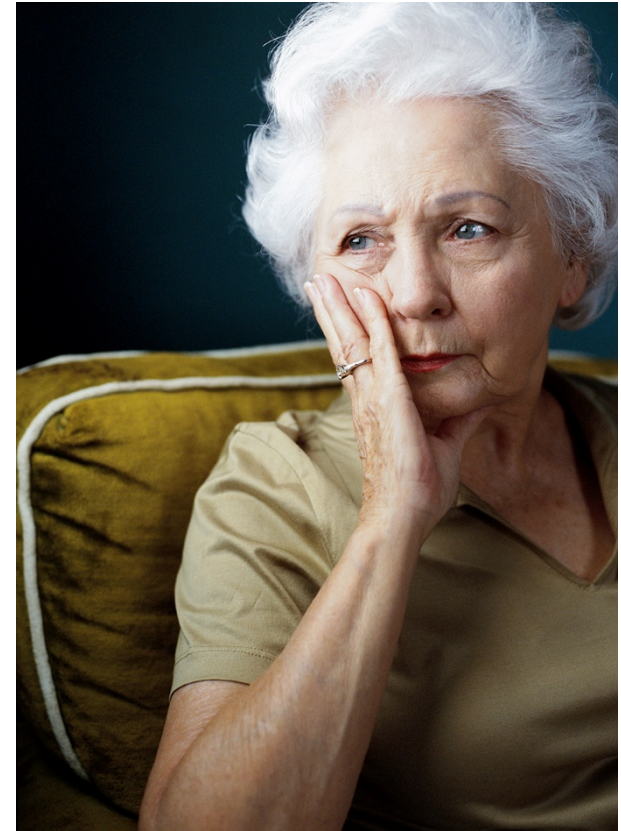
MODULE 13-C

PATIENT ABUSE



CAREGIVER BURNOUT

Caregiver burnout is more than feelings of stress. It encompasses the physical, emotional, and/or spiritual exhaustion that can seem to take over a person.



SIGNS OF BURNOUT

- **It is important to recognize signs that the patient's family or other caregivers may be feeling burned out.**
- **Report concerns to your supervisor.**



RECOGNIZING POSSIBLE ABUSE

Knowing the signs of abuse is important for the home care aide.



SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE



SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE



SIGNS OF NEGLECT AND ABANDONMENT



SIGNS OF EXPLOITATION



SIGNS OF SEXUAL ABUSE



IF ABUSE IS EXPECTED

- **Never accuse someone in the home of abuse**
- **If a home care aide feels that some sort of abuse is happening in the patient's home, the first step is to talk to a supervisor.**
- **In most cases, the local Adult Protective Services (APS) or Child Protective Services (CPS) department will be called.**
- **For the safety of your patient, it is important to let people who are trained in these matters deal with it appropriately.**

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As a home care aide, you will have many opportunities to assist your patient with living in a safe environment. If you ever have concerns regarding the safety of your patient, communicate openly with your supervisor so that you are able to deliver the safest, most effective care possible.

