

NC Department of Health and Human Services  
**NC Home Care Aide Curriculum**  
**Module 13 – Patient Safety**  
 July 2021

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**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

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**MODULE 13-A**

**FALL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**



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**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.



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**HANDOUT #1**

**CDC Facts about Falls**



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**HANDOUT #2**

**Falls in North Carolina**



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**FALL SAFETY MEASURES**  
What are some safety measures that help prevent falls at home?



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**Household Accidents (1)**  
**FIRES AND BURNS**



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**Household Accidents (2)**  
**UNINTENTIONAL POISONING**



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**Household Accidents (3)**

**CARBON MONOXIDE**

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**HANDOUT #3**

**Home Safety Assessment**

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**ACTIVITY #1**

**How many hazards can you spot?**

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**MODULE 13-B**

**Equipment Safety**



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**MOBILITY EQUIPMENT**

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



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**BEDS**

**Side rails on beds**



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**MOVING ABOUT THE HOME**  
**Hand Rails and Grab Bars**



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**ACTIVITY #2**  
**SCENARIOS**



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**ACTIVITY #3**  
**SAFETY CONCERNS**



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**MODULE 13-C**

**PATIENT ABUSE**



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**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.



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**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.



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**RECOGNIZING POSSIBLE ABUSE**

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



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**SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE**



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**SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE**



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**SIGNS OF NEGLECT AND ABANDONMENT**



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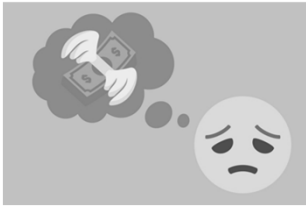
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**SIGNS OF EXPLOITATION**



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**SIGNS OF SEXUAL ABUSE**



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**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.

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**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.



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