

**FALLS AND BALANCE Computer Assisted Interview.**

table: falls\_balance  
subj\_id, visit\_number, study\_date, comments

During the **past 12 months**, have you had dizziness, difficulty with balance or difficulty with falling?

past12\_falling\_ynrd  
YES.....Y  
NO.....N goto doctor\_treat\_ynrd  
REFUSED.....R goto doctor\_treat\_ynrd  
DON'T KNOW....D goto doctor\_treat\_ynrd

Which of these problems have you had

Dizziness? dizziness\_ynrd  
if Y: How long did the dizziness last?  
dizziness\_length\_123rd  
1 Would you say less than 2 weeks,  
2 weeks to 3 months, or  
3 more than 3 months?

(Have you had)

Difficulty with balance? diff\_balance\_ynrd  
if Y: How long did the difficulty with balance last?  
diff\_balance\_length\_123rd  
1 Would you say less than 2 weeks,  
2 weeks to 3 months, or  
3 more than 3 months?

(Have you had)

Difficulty with falling? diff\_falling\_ynrd

Do you get dizzy when you turn over in bed?

turn\_over\_dizzy\_ynrd

Which of the things on this list, if any, were related to your dizziness or balance problem? Code all that apply

A cold or the flu diz\_bal\_cold\_flu\_ynrd  
Injuries or accidents diz\_bal\_injuries\_ynrd  
Use of drugs or medications diz\_bal\_drugs\_ynrd  
Age or getting older diz\_bal\_age\_ynrd  
Surgery diz\_bal\_surgery\_ynrd  
Hearing problems, including ringing in the ears diz\_bal\_hearing\_ynrd  
Vision or seeing problems diz\_bal\_vision\_ynrd

Have you **ever** been treated by a doctor or other health professional for dizziness, a balance problem, or falling?

doctor\_treat\_ynrd (if N, R, D goto past5\_fell\_once\_ynrd)

How long ago were you treated? Would you say . . .

doctor\_treat\_length\_ago\_123rd  
1 less than 1 year ago  
2 1 year to 5 years ago, or

3 5 years or more ago

Did this treatment involve ...

- a. **medication?** `treat_medication_ynrd`
- b. **surgery to the ear?** `treat_ear_surg_ynrd`
- c. **some other type of surgery?** `treat_other_surg_ynrd`
- d. **exercises or physical therapy?** `treat_exercises_ynrd`

As a result of this treatment did your condition. . .

`treat_result_123rd`

- 1 get better
- 2 get worse,
- 3 stay the same?

These next questions are about falls or falling. By falls or falling, we mean unexpectedly dropping to the floor or ground from a standing, walking or bending position. *During the past 5 years* have you fallen at least one time?

`past5_fell_once_ynrd` (if N,R,D goto end)

During the past 12 months, have you fallen at least once a month on average?

`past12_fell_once_per_mo_ynrd`  
if N,R,D goto `past12_total_falls_012345rd`

During the past 12 months, about how many times per day, week, or month have you fallen?

`past12_fell_times_num_rd`  
if 1+, D next\_question (`past12_fell_tperiod_123rd`)  
if 0,R goto `past12_fall_injury_ynrd`

Enter time period for time fallen.

`past12_fell_tperiod_123rd`  
1 Day  
2 Week  
3 Month

During the past 12 months, how many times have you fallen?

\*Read if necessary. If unsure, estimate as best you can.

`past12_total_falls_012345rd`  
0 None  
1 1 time  
2 2 times  
3 3-4 times  
4 5-7 times  
5 8 or more times  
if 0, goto end

During the past 12 months, did you have an injury as a result of a fall? For example, with a bruise, cut or wound, sprain, dislocation, fracture, broken bones, back pain, head or neck injury.

`past12_fall_injury_ynrd`  
Y Yes  
N No  
if N,R,D goto `past12_tripped_ynrd`

During the past 12 months, how many days of work did you miss because of injury from falls? Please tell me the number of days, weeks, or months.

past12\_lost\_work\_num\_urd

0-365 U Doesn't work

if 0,R,U goto past12\_tripped\_ynrd

if 1+,D next

Enter time period for time missed work.

past12\_lost\_work\_tperiod\_123r

1 Days

2 Weeks

3 Months

Have you fallen during the past 12 months due to any of the following reasons? Please say yes or no to each. Put N if the subject cannot do the activity.

...You tripped or stumbled?

past12\_tripped\_ynrd

...You slipped?

past12\_slipped\_ynrd

...You hurried too much?

past12\_hurried\_ynrd

...You were not paying attention?

past12\_not\_attention\_ynrd

...You had nothing to hold onto?

past12\_no\_hold\_ynrd

...You blacked out or fainted?

past12\_blackout\_ynrd

...You lost your balance?

past12\_lost\_balance\_ynrd

...You were knocked over by someone or something?

past12\_knocked\_over\_ynrd

...You were playing sports or exercising?

past12\_sports\_ynrd

...You had a problem with hearing?

past12\_hearing\_ynrd

... You had a problem with vision?

past12\_vision\_ynrd

...You were getting up after sitting or lying down?

past12\_getting\_up\_ynrd

...You were walking up or down stairs

past12\_stairs\_ynrd

...You had slow reactions or reflexes

past12\_slow\_react\_ynrd

...You had weakness or numbness in one or both legs

past12\_weak\_leg\_ynrd

...You had not eaten recently or you had low blood sugar?

past12\_low\_b sugar\_ynrd

...You had a problem with medicine?

past12\_med\_prob\_ynrd

...You drank too much alcohol?

past12\_alcohol\_ynrd

...You had a problem using a walker, cane, or other aid that helps you get around

past12\_aid\_prob\_ynrd

...You had a problem with shoes, sandals or socks?

past12\_footware\_prob\_ynrd

...You had a health condition?

past12\_health\_cond\_ynrd

(BFWHY\_22 **We decided to omit this question.**

BAL.460\_22.000 \* Read if necessary. Have you fallen during the past 12 months due to any of the following reasons? Please say yes or no to each.

...**Some other reason**