

## CP 4.3: Patient Home Safety Assessment

Updated:  
Reviewed:

### Purpose

The home safety assessment is designed to provide a detailed walkthrough of the patient's home, identify safety hazards to the patient, and make recommendations when needed.

Using the Home Safety Assessment Checklist (appendix A), the assessment begins at the driveway or walkway and ends at the back yard. It is designed to focus on things such as trip hazards, kitchen safety, adequate lighting in the home and in walk areas, grab bars and lift handles if applicable, and other notable safety features or lack thereof. This assessment is not a mechanical inspection of the home and is not designed to look at the safety of electrical wiring, hot water heaters, plumbing, or any other mechanical features of the home.

### Policy Statements

The Community Paramedic (CP) will provide home safety assessments for patients in response to a Request for Service from a health authority or primary health care provider. It is expected that the CP will make recommendations following these assessments, report findings to the primary health care provider, and collaborate with other health care professionals to provide support as appropriate.

### Procedure

1. **COMPLETE** the Home Safety Assessment Checklist including inspection of the following areas of the home:
  - Outside the home
  - Living room
  - Kitchen
  - Stairs
  - Bathroom
  - Bedroom
  - General
2. If any safety hazards are found, **MAKE** recommendations and/or referrals as appropriate.
3. **DISCUSS** findings and recommendations with the patient and/or caregiver.
4. **HAVE** patient/caregiver sign the report with the understanding that they understand the recommendations.

### Documentation

**DOCUMENT** home safety assessment on Home Safety Assessment Checklist and indicate that the home safety assessment was completed on Initial Assessment Screen form.

### References

1. Eagle County Paramedic Services. Community Paramedic Protocols Manual. 2013. [\[Link\]](#)
2. Tri-County Health Care Emergency Medical Services. Community Paramedic Policy & Procedure Manual. 2016. [\[Link\]](#)
3. Vancouver Coastal Health. Vancouver Community AOA Practice Guidelines. Initial Assessment Tool – Guidelines for Use. March

