



PATIENT INFORMATION



For Supplies / Questions
Email: support@reliablerespiratory.com
781-551-3335

RELIABLE RESPIRATORY, INC.
1504 Boston Providence Turnpike Suite
11A • Norwood, MA 02062
Toll Free 866-551-3335

www.reliablerespiratory.com
www.reliablediabetescare.com



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PATIENT INFORMATION BROCHURE

Reliable Respiratory welcomes you. We are committed to providing each of our customers with the highest quality of health care equipment and service.

Your service from Reliable Respiratory includes:

- Verbal and written instructions regarding the safe operation of your equipment
- Access to emergency "on-call" services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Reimbursement assistance from our administrative office

MISSION STATEMENT

Our main mission as a company is to meet the needs of our customers in our diverse communities while excelling at customer service. We want to help effectively treat all of our patients. Should our customers have any questions or concerns, we pride ourselves in being able to resolve them promptly.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm

After Hours/Weekends:

You may reach a service technician on-call at 866-551-3335.

Please provide your name and telephone number and your call will be returned promptly.

PRODUCT LINE

The following is a partial list of our available products. Please feel free to call for further information on these and any other services you may need.

BiPAP Therapy
CPAP Therapy
Continuous Glucose Monitors
Insulin Pumps
Home Oxygen Equipment

Nebulizers
Oximeters
Catheters
Ventilators
Breast Pumps

MAINTENANCE OF CPAP SUPPLIES

SOAP

We recommend using a liquid dishwashing soap, such as dawn, ivory or seventh generation, free of any additives such as moisturizers or bleach alternatives. AVOID hand soaps and any antibacterial soaps, as they break down the silicon. Baby shampoo can also be used if available.

Deep cleaning (as needed): 3 parts water, 1 part vinegar. Submerge and soak all parts for one hour, then rinse, and allow to air dry. You may consider doing a soap and water soak after, to help with the odor of the vinegar.

MASKS & PILLOWS

Clean daily by wiping down with a warm damp cloth and air dry.

Weekly: Soak mask and cushion with warm soapy water for 15 minutes, rinse and air dry.

HEADGEAR

Weekly: Hand wash. Use cold water, soap and let air dry.

TUBING

Clean weekly using ¼ teaspoon of soap placed in tubing then add enough water to tubing for 12 inch loop in the middle of the tubing when holding both ends up. Next alternating, raise one end then the other for one minute. Then dump out soapy water and run clean water through tubing for one minute and hang tubing over curtain to remove moisture.

WATER

Distilled water ideally should be used for humidification.

HUMIDIFIER CHAMBER

Clean weekly using ¼ teaspoon of soap placed in the water chamber then add enough water to fill ¾ of the chamber and agitate for one minute, rinse well with tap water then refill with distilled water.

During use, when the water level gets down to the refill point, empty the remaining water out and refill with fresh distilled water. Once refilled, the water should last through the night before requiring a refill.

Do not fill above the refill mark.

FILTERS

Twice each month remove filter and brush off any visible dust. Replace disposable filters monthly, or per your insurance replacement schedule.

ResMed: the disposable white filter is located on the side of the machine, and the door flips down to access filter. Brush off and replace as needed. NO NOT WASH THIS FILTER.

Philips: The DreamStation uses a 2 stage filter, a large dark blue filter (reusable) and a smaller thinner disposable filter (light blue). The larger filter (dark blue) should be washed 1-2 times monthly, and replaced every 6 months. The disposable filter (light blue) should be changed monthly (DO NOT WASH) or per insurance guidelines.

SAFETY STATEMENT

Your physician has prescribed the use of a piece of medical equipment for your comfort and safety. It is essential that you use this device safely and correctly to benefit from its use. The following suggestions may be helpful as you maintain operation of your equipment:

1. Always follow directions given to you by Reliable Respiratory staff.
2. Always use the safety features and devices provided.
3. Extension cords should not be used. Place equipment close to outlet.
4. Electrical devices should be plugged into a properly grounded outlet.
5. Keep clear paths in your home. Move objects that you could trip over.
6. Keep all emergency telephone numbers by your phone.
7. Always use safety locks and make sure they are locked in position.
8. Never reset, bypass or cover alarms.
9. Never smoke or have fire around oxygen devices.
10. Do not overuse plugs and outlets with extension or multi-plug connectors.
11. Do not put covers on your oxygen lines.
12. Power sources should meet or exceed the amperage requirements.
13. Only properly trained, responsible adults should operate equipment.
14. Always call Reliable Respiratory with questions regarding safety operations.
15. Use fire and smoke alarms and test them monthly.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Please review and follow these instructions:

- If you have a disability or illness that inhibits your mobility, we encourage you or your family member to notify the local police and fire department, as well as the utility company, that you may need their assistance in an emergency.
- If you decide to stay at home, please let our office know if your home can be reached by a delivery truck.
- In a disaster, if you must leave your home, please call our office to arrange for delivery of your supplies. Be ready to provide new location information.
- Under disaster conditions, a representative of the company will try to contact you. It may be difficult for us to reach you, so if possible, please always try to contact the company.
- If you need emergency medical care or medical supplies, go to a local hospital in the nearest unaffected area.
- All oxygen patients who lose electricity should immediately use their backup system, if necessary. Calculate how much time you have on the backup. We will try to maintain contact with you and, as soon as we can safely and legally, we will take care of your needs. If backup supply becomes low and concern arises, proceed to a hospital.

EXCHANGE / REPAIR POLICY

Reliable Respiratory honors all warranties expressed and implied under applicable State law and does not charge the beneficiary or Medicare program for the repair or replacement of Medicare covered services covered under warranty. All rental equipment is subject to exchange at no cost to the patient.

ADVANCED DIRECTIVES

We respect your rights to make your own medical treatment decisions. You have the right to decide whether to accept or reject medical treatment, including whether to continue medical treatment and any other procedures that would prolong your life artificially. It is Reliable Respiratory's company policy to call 911 if you are found unresponsive or in serious medical distress. If you have an advanced directive ("living will"), please inform us so that we can inform the responding Emergency Medical Technicians of your advanced directive.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

American Lung Association 1-800-548-8252 www.lungusa.org

American Sleep Apnea Association 202-293-3650 www.sleepapnea.org

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America 1-800-727-8462 www.aafa.org

CLIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Adhere to the plan of treatment or service established by their physician. Participate in the development of an effective plan of care which will involve the management of pain, if appropriate.
- Provide medical and personal information necessary to plan and provide services.
- Communicate any information, concerns and/or questions. Be available at the time deliveries are made and allow Reliable Respiratory representatives to enter their residence at reasonable times to repair or exchange equipment or to provide care.
- Notify the company if he/she is going to be unavailable.
- Treat company personnel with respect and dignity without discrimination. Provide a safe environment for staff to provide care and services.
- Care for and safely use equipment, according to instructions provided, for the purpose it was prescribed and only for/on the client for whom it was prescribed.
- Monitor the quantity of oxygen, nutritional products, medications and supplies in their homes and reorder as required to assure timely delivery of the required items.
- Protect equipment from fire, water, theft or other damage. The client agrees not to transfer or allow his/her equipment to be used by any other person without prior written consent of the company and further agrees not to modify or attempt to make repairs of any kind to the equipment.
- Except where contrary to federal or state law, the client is responsible for equipment rental and for sale charges for which the client's insurance company or companies does not pay. The client is responsible for settlement in full of his/her accounts.
- The company should be notified of any changes in the client's physical condition, physician's prescription or insurance coverage. Notify the company immediately of any address or telephone changes whether temporary or permanent

CLIENT INFORMATION

After Hours Services:

An answering service will answer Reliable Respiratory's phones after normal business hours. You may leave a message that you wish to speak to a company representative and the on-call staff will be contacted. Only equipment requiring emergency maintenance or replacement (i.e. life support, oxygen) will be serviced after hours.

Complaint Procedure:

You have the right and responsibility to express concerns, dissatisfaction or make complaints about services you do or do not receive without fear or reprisal, discrimination or unreasonable interruption of services. The company telephone number is 866-551-3335. When you call, ask to speak with the Operations Manager, Quality Improvement Coordinator, Supervisor or the CEO.

Reliable Respiratory has a formal grievance procedure that ensures that your concerns shall be reviewed and an investigation started within 48 hours. Every attempt shall be made to resolve all grievances within 14 days. You will be informed in writing of the resolution of the complaint/grievance.

If you feel the need to discuss your concerns, dissatisfaction or complaints with other than Reliable Respiratory staff, the State of Massachusetts provides a Home Health "Hot Line". The hours of operation are 9am to 5pm and the number is 1-800-447-8477 or contact Medicare at 1-800-633-4227 or The Joint Commission at 1-800-994-6610. The community service number for Patient Facilities is 1-800-462-5540.

MEDICARE DMEPOS SUPPLIER STANDARDS

DMEPOS suppliers have the option to disclose the following statement to satisfy the requirement outlined in Supplier Standard 16 in lieu of providing a copy of the standards to the beneficiary.

The products and/or services provided to you by Reliable Respiratory, Inc. are subject to the supplier standards contained in the Federal regulations shown at 42 Code of Federal Regulations Section 424.57(c). These standards concern business professional and operational matters (e.g. honoring warranties and hours of operation). The full text of these standards can be obtained at <http://www.med.umich.edu/pdf/dmepos-supplier-standards.pdf>. Upon request we will furnish you a written copy of the standards.

CLIENTS BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A formal Client Bill of Rights is designed to recognize, protect and promote the rights of each client to be treated with dignity and respect. These rights may be exercised by the client or the client's representative. The Client Bill of Rights must include the intent of each of the following statements. The right to be fully informed orally and in writing of the following before care is initiated.

You have the Right to be fully informed of:

1. services/products available directly or by contract.
2. the organization ownership and control: Reliable Respiratory, an S Corporation, is the provider of service.
3. any specific charges for services to be paid by client and those charges covered by insurance, third party payment or public benefit program .
4. billing policies, payment procedures and any changes in the information provided on admission as they occur within 15 days from the date that the organization is made aware of the change.
5. names and qualifications of the disciplines that will provide care and proposed frequency of service.
6. your right to participate in the plan for care and/or any change in the plan before it is made.
7. the agency's policy on client advanced directives including a description of an individual's rights under State law (whether statutory or as recognized by the courts of the State) and how such rights are implemented by the agency.
8. the organization's grievance procedures which include contact names, phone numbers, hours of operation and how to communicate problems to the agency.

And the Right to:

9. receive services without regard to race, creed, gender, age, handicap, sexual orientation, sexual identification, veteran status or lifestyle.
10. receive service without regard to whether or not any advance directive has been executed.
11. make informed decisions about care and treatment plans and to receive information in a way that is understandable to you.
12. be notified, in advance, of treatment options, transfers, when and why care will be discontinued.
13. receive and access services consistently and in a timely manner, in accordance with the organization's stated operational policy.
14. receive education, instructions and requirements for continuing care when the services of the agency are discontinued.
15. participate in the selection of options for alternative levels of care or referral to other organizations, as indicated by your need for continuing care.
16. receive disclosure information regarding any beneficial relationships the organization has that may result in profit for the referring organization.
17. be referred to another provider if the organization is unable to meet your needs or if you are not satisfied with the care you are receiving.
18. voice grievances regarding treatment, care or respect for property that is or fails to be furnished by anyone providing services on behalf of the organization without reprisal for doing so.
19. receive information on grievance procedures which include contact names, phone numbers, hours of operation and how to communicate problems to the agency.
20. receive a documented response from the agency regarding the investigation and resolution to the grievance.
21. be advised of the availability, purpose, and appropriate use of State (1-800-447-8477), Medicare (1-800-633-4227) and The Joint Commission (1-800-994-6610) Hotline numbers.
22. refuse treatment and be informed of potential results and/or risks.
23. not receive any experimental treatment without the client's specific agreement and full understanding of information explained.
24. be free from any mental or physical abuse, neglect or exploitation of any kind from the organization's staff.
25. have your property be treated with respect.
26. have your clinical records protected and to know the organization's policy for any accessing and disclosure of clinical records.
27. request and receive information regarding the organization's liability insurance.

Reliable Respiratory

Notice of Privacy Practices

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully.

If you have any questions about this Notice please contact:

Privacy Officer

Reliable Respiratory, Inc.
1504 Boston Providence Turnpike, Suite 11A
Norwood, MA 02062

This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how we may use and disclose your protected health information to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. It also describes your rights to access and control your protected health information. "Protected health information" is information about you, including demographic information, that may identify you and that relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health or condition and related health care services.

We are required to abide by the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices. We may change the terms of our notice, at any time. The new notice will be effective for all protected health information that we maintain at that time. Upon your request, we will provide you with any revised Notice of Privacy Practices by accessing our website www.reliablerespiratory.com or calling the office and requesting that a revised copy be sent to you in the mail or asking for one at the time of your next appointment.

Understanding Your Health Record/Information

Each time you visit a healthcare provider, a record of your visit is made. Typically, this record contains your symptoms, examination and test results, diagnoses, treatment, and a plan for future care or treatment. This information, often referred to as your health or medical record, serves as a:

- basis for planning your care and treatment.
- means of communication among the many health professionals who contribute to your care.
- legal document describing the care you received.
- means by which you or a third-party payer can verify that services billed were actually provided.
- a tool in educating health professionals source of data for medical research.
- source of information for public health officials charged with improving the health of the nation.
- source of data for facility planning and marketing.
- a tool with which we can assess and continually work to improve the care we render and the outcomes we achieve.

Understanding what is in your record and how your health information is used helps you to:

- ensure its accuracy.
- better understand who, what, when, where, and why others may access your health information.
- make more informed decisions when authorizing disclosure to others.

Your Health Information Rights

Although your health record is the physical property of the healthcare practitioner or facility that compiled it, the information belongs to you. You have the right to:

- request a restriction on certain uses and disclosures of your information, request that we don't share your information with your health insurer if you pay for a service or healthcare item out-of-pocket and in full.
- obtain a paper copy of the notice of information practices upon request, be notified of a breach of your unsecured health information.
- inspect and obtain a copy of your health record (paper or electronic), amend your health record.
- obtain an accounting of disclosures of your health information, in cases where there have been disclosure other than for treatment, payment or healthcare operations.
- request communications of your health information by alternative means or at alternative locations.
- revoke your authorization to use or disclose health information except to the extent that action has already been taken.

Reliable Respiratory

Notice of Privacy Practices

Our Responsibilities

This organization is required by law to:

- maintain the privacy of your health information.
- provide you with a notice as to our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to information we collect and maintain about you.
- abide by the terms of this notice.
- notify you if we are unable to agree to a requested restriction or accommodate reasonable requests you may have to communicate health information by alternative means or at alternative locations.

We will not use or disclose your health information without your authorization, except as described in this notice.

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you can file a complaint or get further information about the complaint process from our

Privacy Officer at 866-551-3335 or **support@reliablerespiratory.com**.

Or you can file a complaint with the Secretary of Health and Human Services at

1-877-696-6775 or by visiting **www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/**.

There will be no retaliation for filing a complaint.

Examples of Disclosures for Treatment, Payment and Healthcare Operations

We will use your health information for treatment.

For example: Information obtained by a therapist or other member of your healthcare team will be recorded in your record and used to determine the course of treatment that should work best for you. We may provide your physician or a subsequent healthcare provider with copies of various reports that should assist him or her in treating you.

We will use your health information for payment.

For example: A bill may be sent to you or a third-party payer. The information on or accompanying the bill may include information that identifies you, as well as your diagnosis, procedures, and supplies used.

We will use your health information for regular healthcare operations.

For example: Members of our quality improvement team may use information in your health record to assess the care and outcomes in your case and others like it. This information will then be used in an effort to continually improve the quality and effectiveness of the healthcare and service we provide.

Business associates: There are some services provided in our organization through contracts with business associates. Examples include our billing service. When these services are contracted, we may disclose your health information to our business associate so that they can perform the job we've asked them to do and bill you or your third-party payer for services rendered. Business Associates are required by law to abide by the same Privacy laws and regulations as we are. Business associates are also responsible for safeguarding your information by having Privacy agreements with any subcontractors they use.

Notification: We may use or disclose information to notify or assist in notifying a family member, personal representative, or another person responsible for your care, your location, and general condition.

Communication with family: Health professionals, using their best judgment, may disclose to a family member, other relative, close personal friend or any other person you identify, health information relevant to that person's involvement in your care or payment related to your care.

Reliable Respiratory

Notice of Privacy Practices

Examples of Disclosures for Treatment, Payment and Healthcare Operations

~ continued ~

Research: We may disclose information to researchers when their research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your health information.

Funeral directors: We may disclose health information to funeral directors consistent with applicable law to carry out their duties.

Organ procurement organizations: Consistent with applicable law, we may disclose health information to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking, or transplantation of organs for the purpose of tissue donation and transplant.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): We may disclose to the FDA health information relative to adverse events with respect to food, supplements, product and product defects, or post marketing surveillance information to enable product recalls, repairs, or replacement.

Workers' compensation: We may disclose health information to the extent authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to workers' compensation or other similar programs established by law.

Public health: As required by law, we may disclose your health information to public health or legal authorities charged with preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability.

Correctional institution: Should you be an inmate of a correctional institution, we may disclose to the institution or agents thereof health information necessary for your health and the health and safety of other individuals.

Law enforcement: We may disclose health information for law enforcement purposes as required by law or in response to a valid subpoena.

Federal law makes provision for your health information to be released to an appropriate health oversight agency, public health authority or attorney, provided that a work force member or business associate believes in good faith that we have engaged in unlawful conduct or have otherwise violated professional or clinical standards and are potentially endangering one or more patients, workers or the public.

Marketing: We will not use your information for the purposes of marketing without your written authorization. You may opt out of receiving marketing communications.

Fundraising: We will not use your information for the purposes of fundraising without your written authorization. You may opt out of receiving fundraising communications.

Other instances where your written authorization is required: Sale of your information, sharing of psychotherapy notes.

This notice was published 1/25/13 and becomes effective on 9/23/13 and remains in effect until it is changed or replaced.

Reliable Respiratory Respiratory Hygiene Practices

Everyday Preventive Actions Can Help Fight Germs

Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

If you or your child gets sick with a respiratory illness, CDC recommends that you (or your child) stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.

While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. After using a tissue, throw it in the trash and wash your hands.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.

Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs that can cause respiratory illnesses.

If an outbreak of respiratory illness occurs, follow public health advice. This may include information about how to increase distance between people and other measures.

Stop Germs! Wash Your Hands.

WHEN?

- After using the bathroom
- Before, during and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed or animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After touching garbage

HOW?

- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap and apply soap.
- Lather your hands by rubbing together with soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse hands well under clean, running water.
- Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important things we can do to stop the spread of germs and stay healthy.

Oxygen Fire Safety Policy

PURPOSE: This policy has been developed to address the fire safety hazard related to patients who smoke or allow an open flame while using medical oxygen. This practice is an extremely dangerous fire hazard. Oxygen is not flammable, but it can cause other materials that burn to ignite more easily and to burn far more rapidly. The result is that a fire involving concentrated oxygen can appear explosive-like. The Oxygen Fire Safety Policy is in effect for all Reliable Respiratory patients.

STATEMENT OF POLICY: It is the policy of Reliable Respiratory to fully comply with and to enforce the safety guidelines and quantity limits for the use of medical oxygen by patients of Reliable Respiratory.

SAFETY GUIDELINES: In order to prevent personal injuries and damage to Reliable Respiratory property, the following safety guidelines must always be complied with. Reliable Respiratory reserves the right to deny services to any patient who does not comply with these guidelines.

- Never smoke while using oxygen.
- Warn visitors not to smoke near you when you are using oxygen.
- Post at least one OXYGEN IN USE/NO SMOKING sign in a prominent place at the entrance to your home.
- Stay at least five feet from gas stoves, candles, lighted fireplaces, and other heat sources.
- Keep oxygen cylinders and vessels in a well-ventilated area (not in closets, behind curtains, or other confined spaces). The small amount of oxygen gas that is continually vented from these units can accumulate in a confined space and become a fire hazard.
- Oxygen tanks should always be stored in a stand or cart to prevent tipping or falling.
- Unsecured tanks should be placed flat on the floor. Do not allow tanks to stand or lean in an upright position while unsecured.
- Do not drag, roll, slide or drop tanks. Do not lift a tank by its cap or valve.
- Do not put oxygen tubing under rugs or furniture.
- Oxygen tanks should be transported in the passenger compartment of a vehicle with the windows open slightly (2-3 inches) to provide adequate ventilation.
- When transporting tanks in a vehicle, be sure they are secured and positioned properly. Never leave tanks in a car trunk or a hot vehicle.
- Only use a properly grounded wall outlet for your oxygen concentrator.
- Do not use extension cords for your oxygen concentrator.
- Do not use any flammable products like cleaning fluids, paint thinner, or aerosol sprays while using your oxygen.
- Keep all grease, oil, and petroleum products (even small amounts) and flammable materials away from your oxygen equipment. Some organic materials can react violently with oxygen if ignited by a hot spark.
- Use water-based lubricants on your lips and hands. Don't use an oil-based product like petroleum jelly or petroleum-based creams or lotions.
- Do not use bedding or clothes made of wool, nylon, or synthetic fabrics as these materials have the tendency to produce static electricity.
- Do not allow children or untrained individuals to handle or operate oxygen equipment.

POLICY REVIEW: Patients of Reliable Respiratory who violate the safety guidelines and quantity limits will be subject to service termination. This policy will be subject to review and modification.

Fall Mitigation Checklist

Falls are often due to hazards that are easy to overlook but easy to fix. This checklist will help you find and fix those hazards in your home. This checklist was developed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/steady/pdf/check_for_safety_brochure-a.pdf

Floors: Look at the floor in each room.

1. When you walk through a room, do you have to walk around furniture?
 - Ask someone to move the furniture so your path is clear.
2. Do you have throw rugs on the floor?
 - Remove the rugs or use double-sided tape or a non-slip backing so the rugs won't slip.
3. Are there papers, books, towels, shoes, magazines, boxes, blankets, or other objects on the floor?
 - Pick up things that are on the floor. Always keep objects off the floor.
4. Do you have to walk over or around wires or cords (like lamp, telephone, or extension cords)?
 - Coil or tape cords and wires next to the wall so you can't trip over them. If needed, have an electrician put in another outlet.

Stairs and Steps: Look at the stairs you use both inside and outside your home.

1. Are there papers, shoes, books, or other objects on the stairs?
 - Pick up things on the stairs. Always keep objects off the stairs.
2. Are some steps broken or uneven?
 - Fix loose or uneven steps.
3. Are you missing a light over the stairway?
 - Have an electrician put in an overhead light at the top and bottom of the stairs.
4. Do you have only one light switch for your stairs (only at the top or at the bottom of the stairs)?
 - Have an electrician put in a light switch at the top and bottom of the stairs. You can get light switches that glow.
5. Has the stairway lightbulb burned out?
 - Have a friend or family member change the light bulb.
6. Is the carpet on the steps loose or torn?
 - Make sure the carpet is firmly attached to every step or remove the carpet and attach non-slip rubber treads to the stairs.
7. Are the handrails loose or broken? Is there a handrail on only one side of the stairs?
 - Fix loose handrails or put in new ones. Make sure handrails are on both sides of the stairs and are as long as the stairs.

Kitchen: Look at your kitchen and eating area

1. Are the things you use often on high shelves?
 - Move items in your cabinets. Keep things you use often on the lower shelves (about waist level).
2. Is your step stool unsteady?
 - If you must use a step stool, get one with a bar to hold on to. Never use a chair as a step stool.

Bathrooms: Look at all your bathrooms.

1. Is the tub or shower floor slippery?
 - Put a non-slip rubber mat or self-stick strips on the floor of the tub or shower.
2. Do you need some support when you get in and out of the tub or up from the toilet?
 - Have grab bars put in next to and inside the tub and next to the toilet.

Bedrooms: Look at all your bedrooms.

1. Is the light near the bed hard to reach?
 - Place a lamp close to the bed where it's easy to reach.
2. Is the path from your bed to the bathroom dark?
 - Put in a night-light so you can see where you're walking. Some night-lights go on by themselves after dark.

Other Things You Can Do to Prevent Falls:

1. Do exercises that improve your balance and make your legs stronger. Exercise also helps you feel better and more confident.
2. Have your doctor or pharmacist look at all the medicines you take, even the over-the-counter medicines. Some medicines can make you sleepy or dizzy.
3. Get up slowly after you sit or lie down.
4. Wear shoes both inside and outside the house. Avoid going barefoot or wearing slippers.
5. Improve the lighting in your home. Put in brighter light bulbs. Florescent bulbs are bright and cost less to use.
6. It's safest to have uniform lighting in a room. Add lighting to dark areas. Hang lightweight curtains or shades to reduce glare.
7. Paint a contrasting color on the top edge of all steps so you can see the stairs better. For example, use a light color paint on dark wood.

Other Safety Tips:

1. Keep emergency numbers in large print near each phone.
2. Put a phone near the floor in case you fall and can't get up.
3. Think about wearing an alarm device that will bring help in case you fall and can't get up.

