

November 2014

Dear Colleagues,

As part of our ongoing efforts to raise awareness and reinforce best practices to support and protect individuals with developmental disabilities, we ask that you review the previously issued Health and Safety Alert on "Preventing Falls". Please communicate the information to staff working with individuals and ensure that additional training is provided to staff regarding any individualized actions required by the individuals they support. The alert is posted on the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) website at:

http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_resources/safety_alerts/health_and_safety_alerts

This alert explains factors that may increase the risk of falling and tips to decrease that risk. Supportive measures, safety precautions, and evidence-based practices are included in the Alerts to assist you in maintaining the health and safety of our individuals and identifying potential risks. Some links are also included for helpful tools for fall prevention.

Again, please take the opportunity to review the Health and Safety Alerts mentioned above and share them with your coworkers.