

Faster. Simpler. Stronger.



Assessing balance in veterans

Musculoskeletal conditions related to limited flexion in the knee is now the second most service-related disability claim¹. As hearing difficulties are known to increase fall risk, the high prevalence of knee and ankle issues in veterans underscores the critical role multifactorial balance and mobility assessments can play in addressing balance and mobility challenges.

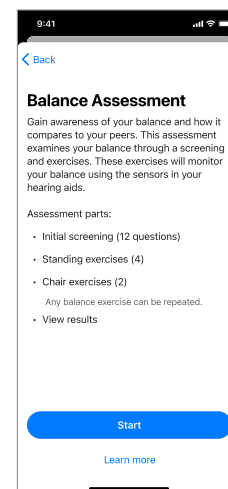
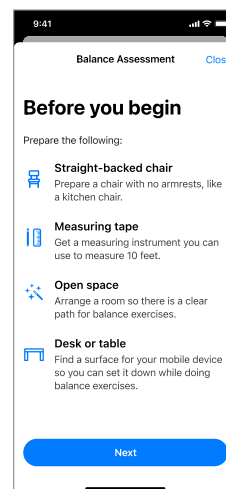
Addressing the increase in mobility concerns

Addressing all modifiable risk factors is essential for effective fall prevention and improved health outcomes for veterans. The Edge AI Balance Assessment feature is an excellent addition to a veteran patient's hearing aid experience and could contribute to their overall health and wellness.

Quick, easy, clinically validated

The Balance Assessment feature in the My Starkey App, grounded in the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries (STEADI) Initiative, is a clinically validated tool effective for remote use². The screening begins by administering an electronic version of the STEADI 'Stay Independent' screening questionnaire. Followed by visual and audio instructions streamed through the hearing aids for the user to perform the STEADI assessment protocol: 4-Stage Balance, 30-Second Chair Stand, and Timed Up and Go (TUG) tests that are autonomously scored via the hearing aid sensors.

The scoring algorithms evaluate the wearer's movements during the tests similarly to a trained clinician and have been independently validated by a series of studies conducted at Stanford Medicine's Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery². This innovative approach helps identify patients who may have balance concerns that warrant further investigation.



Starkey's Balance Assessment Quick Tip

1. Veterans Benefits Administration. (2024). Annual Benefits Report: Fiscal Year 2023. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. <https://www.benefits.va.gov/REPORTS/abr/docs/2023-abr.pdf>
2. Burwinkle, B., Steenerson, K.K., Srour, M., Cloninger, C. and Howes, C. (2024) Development and Validation of Starkey's Balance Assessment Feature. Starkey white paper.

Read more on the latest research on Starkey's products here:

<https://www.starkeypro.com/government/continue-learning/research-and-publications>