

# Fitness – a key to avoiding falls



## Peace of Mind with Philips Lifeline

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- Our new Lifeline with AutoAlert\* option provides an added layer of protection by automatically placing a call for help if a fall is detected and you can't push your button.
- Continue living in the comfort of your own home.

## Keeping active helps you avoid falls

### Treatments including exercise for older adults can reduce the risk of falls<sup>1</sup>

Staying physically active and exercising regularly can help prevent or delay some diseases and disabilities as people grow older. Older people have much to gain from staying active.<sup>2</sup>

### You don't need a gym to exercise

Walking, gardening, and household chores are all physical activities that keep you moving, active and fit.

Major benefits of staying active:

- Maintains muscle strength
- Strengthens bones; slows down the process of osteoporosis
- Keeps joints, tendons and ligaments more flexible, making it easier to move around
- Increases energy
- Strengthens heart and lungs
- Promotes a sense of well-being

“If exercise could be packaged into a pill, it would be the single most widely prescribed and beneficial medicine in the nation.”

**Robert N. Butler, M.D.**  
Former Director,  
National Institute  
on Aging

1. Province, Michael A. Ph.D. et al., "The Effects of Exercise on Falls in Elderly Patients," Journal of the American Medical Association, May 3, 1995, Vol. 273, No. 17, 1341-1347.

2. Dutta, C., Ph.D., Ory, M., Ph.D. Co-Chairpersons, et al., Exercise: A Guide from the National Institute on Aging. What Can Exercise Do For Me?, 1998.

**PHILIPS**  
**Lifeline**

See the following pages  
for helpful exercises.

**PHILIPS**

# Exercises from a sitting position

Do not overdo it. Start slowly and build the number of repetitions gradually. Use a firm chair.

## Neck stretches

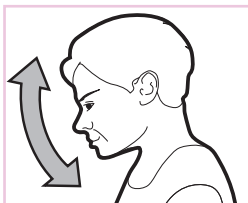
Side bends: Tilt head sideways as if to touch ear to shoulder.

Right: Hold 10 secs., 10 reps

Left: Hold 10 secs., 10 reps

Chin to chest: Bend chin forward to chest.

Hold 10 secs., 10 reps



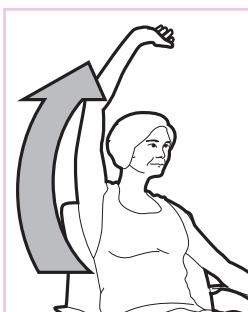
## Arm raises

Raise arm up, pause at the top for 2 seconds and bring down.

Right arm: 10 reps

Left arm: 10 reps

Both arms: 10 reps

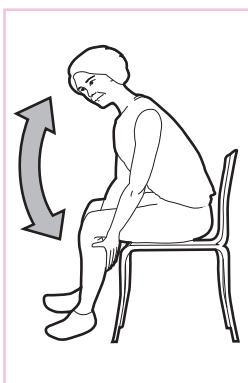


## Back stretching and strengthening

Legs apart, place hands on each side of right knee. Slide hands from knee to ankle and return to upright sitting position.

Right knee: 10 reps

Left knee: 10 reps

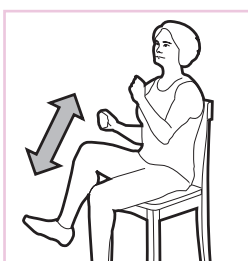


## Seated marching

Alternate lifting knees to chest as if marching.

Right leg: 10-15 reps

Left leg: 10-15 reps



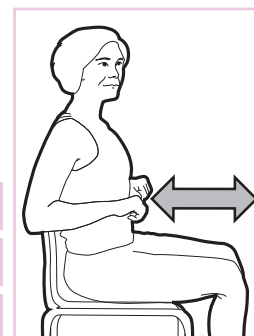
## Rowing

Make sure to sit as straight as possible. Place arm straight out in front and then pull arm back with elbow next to your side.

Right arm: 10 reps

Left arm: 10 reps

Both arms: 10 reps

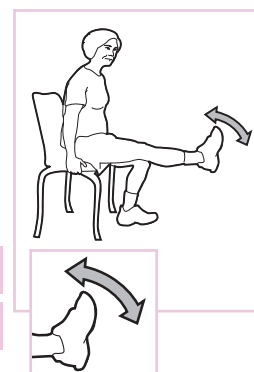


## Ankle range of motion

Point toes up as far as possible and then down as far as possible. Rotate both feet.

Clockwise: 20 reps

Counterclockwise: 20 reps

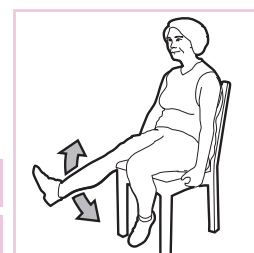


## Knee extension

Straighten knee, pause and then lower foot back to floor.

Right leg: 10 reps

Left leg: 10 reps

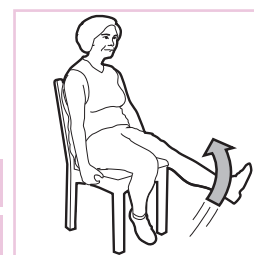


## Small kicks

Straighten and bend knee, as in a kicking motion.

Right leg: 10-15 reps

Left leg: 10-15 reps



\* secs. = seconds \* reps = repetitions

# Exercises from a standing position

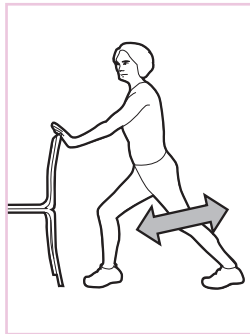
To maintain balance, use a kitchen counter or the back of a sturdy chair that doesn't have wheels.

## Calf stretch

Hold back of chair. Step back with right foot, keeping foot straight. Lean forward, keeping right heel on floor.

Right leg: Hold 30 secs., 3 reps

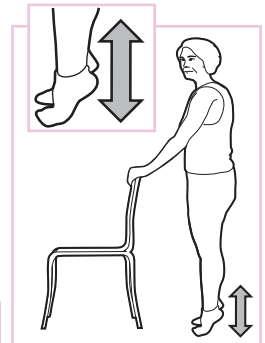
Left leg: Hold 30 secs., 3 reps



## Heel and toe raise

Stand straight, feet shoulder-width apart, rise up on toes, pause and lower back down. Then lift toes, keeping heels flat, and lower back down.

Both feet together: 10 reps



## Lateral leg swing

Hold back of chair. Move right leg straight out to side without bending knee or waist. Keep toes pointed forward.

Right leg: 10 reps

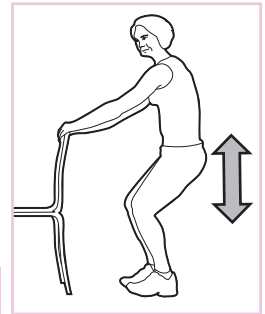
Left leg: 10 reps



## Mini-squats

Hold back of chair. Bend knees as far as is comfortable. Keep back and head up straight and behind toes, as in diagram. Then return to standing position.

10 reps



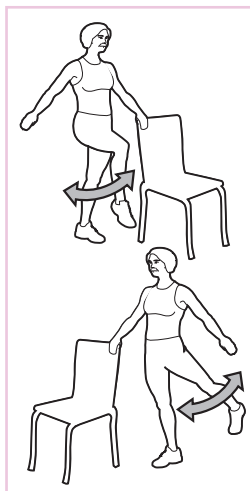
## Hip flexion and extension

Hold the back of chair and bring your right knee up as close to the chest as possible, trying not to bend at the waist.

Slowly lower your leg and swing straight behind you without bending the knee. Then lower back to starting position.

Right leg: 10 reps

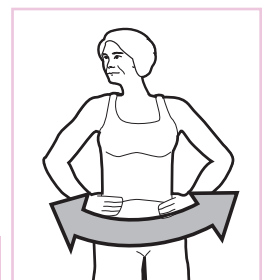
Left leg: 10 reps



## Side-to-side twist

With feet shoulder-width apart, slowly twist your upper body from right to left. Stand as straight as possible.

10 reps



**Note:** Be sure to consult with your physician before beginning an exercise program. The exercises suggested here do not substitute for a program provided by your health practitioner.

\* secs. = seconds \* reps = repetitions

This educational pamphlet was developed by Philips Lifeline in collaboration with registered physical therapist Maryellen Madden.



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