



Behind the Falls: Identifying Vestibular Dysfunction in High-Risk Fallers

Overview: This continuing education course equips clinicians with the knowledge and practical skills needed to identify vestibular dysfunction as a contributing factor to falls. Participants will review essential vestibular anatomy and explore how impairments within this system increase fall risk. The course covers common vestibular pathologies with a special emphasis on benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV), including its strong association with falls, key risk factors, and relevant history-taking considerations such as dizziness descriptors and medical comorbidities. Clinicians will learn to utilize standardized outcome measures commonly used in vestibular assessment and differentiate vestibular causes of dizziness from non-vestibular conditions that present similarly. The course concludes with guidance on recognizing which patients require referral for more comprehensive vestibular evaluation, ensuring safer and more targeted patient management.

Audience: Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants, Physical Therapists, Physical Therapy Assistants

Presenters: Sheri Klock, PT, DPT (PT021154)
Physical Therapist, Bryn Mawr Rehab Outpatient in Wynnewood

Rachel Markiewitz, PT, DPT (PT025905)
Physical Therapist, Lankenau Medical Center

Amanda D. Myrka PT, DPT (PT028737)
Physical Therapist, Main Line Health

Theresa Payne PT, DPT, MS (PT028232)
Physical Therapist, Bryn Mawr Rehab Outpatient in Malvern

Gregory C. Piccolomini, PT, DPT, NCS (PT025459)
Physical Therapist, Bryn Mawr Rehab Outpatient in Newtown Square

Kari A. Pyatanov, PT, DPT (PT031611)
Physical Therapist, Bryn Mawr Rehab Outpatient in Concordville

Objectives: At the completion of this course, the learner will be able to:

- Describe the anatomy and physiology of the vestibular system and its role in postural stability
- Identify common vestibular pathologies and relevance to fall risk
- Explain the relationship between vestibular dysfunction and falls, including mechanisms through which impairments contribute to instability
- Recognize risk factors associated with common vestibular disorders
- Differentiate vestibular causes of dizziness from non-vestibular conditions
- Discuss standardized outcome measures commonly used in vestibular assessment and rehabilitation

- Apply knowledge to patient case studies to differentially diagnose vestibular pathology and to identify indications for vestibular referral

Program Date: May 21, 2026

Program Length: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Program Location: Virtual—zoom

Program Registration: <https://www.mainlinehealth.org/rehabeducation>

Program Cost: \$20.00

Program Agenda:

Time	Major Topics	Presentation Method
15 min	Introduction and vestibular anatomy	Lecture
20 min	Vestibular pathologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central versus peripheral pathologies 	Lecture
5 min	Relationship of vestibular pathology and falls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidence rates 	Lecture
10 min	Risk factors for vestibular pathology	Lecture
20 min	Outcome measures and assessment tools	Lecture
25 min	Non-vestibular conditions associated with dizziness and falls	Lecture
20 min	Case studies	Group Discussion
5 min	Question and answer	Group Discussion

CE Statement:

- OT: Main Line Health is recognized by the PA State Board of Occupational Therapy as a pre-approved provider. This course is applicable for 2.0 contact hours (0.2 CEUs).
- PT: This course has been approved by the PA State Board of Physical Therapy for 2.0 contact hours (0.2 CEUs).

Participant Satisfaction/Complaint Policy: Program evaluation evaluates participant satisfaction and complaints are handled by designated BMRH representative.

Satisfactory Completion: Requirements for satisfactory completion of this course include full attendance at the course as evidenced by electronic sign-in/sign-out sheet, completion of perceived attainment of course objectives, and self-assessment of how course materials will impact clinical performance and/or outcomes.

Cancellation Policy: Main Line Health reserves the right to cancel an educational event. In the event that Main Line Health cancels the event, participants will be refunded 100% of any registration fees paid.

Participants may cancel their participation in the course. The course tuition is refundable, minus a 20% processing fee, if the cancellation is received in writing at least one week prior to the start date of the course. No refunds or credits will be granted if notice is provided less than one week prior to the start date. No refunds or credits will be granted for no shows.

Faculty Disclosures:

Speaker	Financial	Non-Financial
Sheri Klock, PT, DPT	Receives a salary from MLH	No disclosure
Rachel Markiewitz, PT, DPT	Receives a salary from MLH	No disclosure
Amanda D. Myrga PT, DPT	Receives a salary from MLH	No disclosure
Theresa Payne PT, DPT, MS	Receives a salary from MLH	No disclosure
Gregory C. Piccolomini, PT, DPT, NCS	Receives a salary from MLH	No disclosure
Kari A, Pyatanov, PT, DPT	Receives a salary from MLH	No disclosure