

# **10 Geriatric Issues for Medical Transportation**

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**Paula M. Taliaferro, MGS, LSW**

**May 4, 2007**

**THOMCO's EMS & Medical Transportation  
Safety Net Seminar**

# What is Old?

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# Discussion Issues

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- 1. Cohort Effect-When did you grow up?
  - 2. Diversity with a Capital “D”-Age is a Poor Predictor of Need
  - 3. Continuity in Aging-”We become more of what we are”
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# Discussion Issues

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- 4. Physical Aging
    - What is Common?
    - Hearing
    - Vision
    - Mobility
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# Communicating Successfully with Visually Impaired Passengers

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- Use the person's remaining senses
  - Position yourself so that the person can see you
  - Make sure lighting is adequate
  - Control glare
  - Simplify the visual field
  - Provide additional time
  - Use color contrast in written material
  - Use large print in written material
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# **Communicating Successfully with Hearing Impaired Passengers**

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- Speak clearly; don't mumble or over articulate**
  - Pay attention to lighting**
  - Face the person**
  - Get the person's attention before speaking**
  - Rephrase statements that may not have been heard**
  - Don't shout; slightly increase volume**
  - Don't cover mouth while speaking**
  - Reduce background noise**
  - Know which ear is the person's better ear and speak to that side**
  - Use written communication to supplement**
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# Implications of Mobility Limitations for Transportation

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- Getting to Vehicle Safely
  - Getting on and off of Vehicle Safely
  - Assistive Devices-Storing and Using
  - Seats and Seat Belts
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# Discussion Issues

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## □ Memory Changes

- What is common?-File Cabinet Effect
  - What is dementia?
  - What are some common behavioral changes with dementia?
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# **Causes of Dementia-like Symptoms**

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- D**            **Drugs**
  - E**            **Emotional**
  - M**            **Metabolic, Endocrine**
  - E**            **Eyes, Ears, Environmental Change**
  - N**            **Nutritional Deficiency**
  - T**            **Tumors, Trauma**
  - I**            **Infection**
  - A**            **Atherosclerosis, Alcoholism,  
                  Alzheimer's Disease**
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# **Dementia: Challenging Behaviors**

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- Loss of short term memory**
  - Catastrophic reactions**
  - Overreaction to situations**
  - Delusions and Hallucinations**
    - Thinks things are happening that are not**
    - Sees, hears, smells, tastes or feels things that are not there**
  - Repetitive words or behaviors**
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# Discussion Issues

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- 6. Independence vs. Safety-Two Roads That Often Do Not Meet in Families-Allowance for Risk**
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# Discussion Issues

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- **7. Concept of “Maintaining the Illusion of Independence” or “Saving Face”**
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# Discussion Issues

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- **8. Concept of Time**
    - **Cultural Norms**
    - **“The Desert of Time”**
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# Discussion Issues

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- **9. Concept of Reciprocity-  
Importance of balance between  
give and take**
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# Discussion Issues

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- 10. To Change or Not to Change-  
The Importance of Predictability**
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