

10 Geriatric Issues for Medical Transportation

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

What is Old?

Discussion Issues

- 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

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

- 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

- 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

- 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

□ 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

- 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

- ❑ 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

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

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

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

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

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