Health & Medical

LIVING WITH DENTURES

Submitted by Rogue River Denture

Whether you have worn Dentures for years or you are new to wearing dentures. Living with dentures is always going to be apart of you daily life, Cleaning your dentures and gums should be in your daily routine. Just as it was when you had your natural teeth. It is important to clean your dentures using a soft bristled toothbrush and non abrasive soap. Brushing your gums, tongue and palate every day is very important in your oral health as well,

It is not unusual to experience minor irritation or soreness from time to time. Don't be tempted to adjust them yourself, this can damage them beyond repair. Dentures break, chip, crack or become loose as well from time to time. Again, don't try to repair them yourself take them to your local denturist to be repaired.

You may find that your dentures occasionally slip when you laugh, cough or smile. If this becomes more bothersome you may need to have your dentures refitted or relined to tighten them back up to your gums. This is not unusual as your gums are always changing making your dentures loose.

Implant supported dentures offer a high level of security. Implants are surgically inserted into the jawbone to hold the denture tightly to the gum. Regular lower dentures usually are not as secure as a upper denture. This is due to having less gum ridge in the lower mouth and the tongue is present hitting the lower making it slip. Ask you local denturist for more details.

If you are new to wearing dentures keep in mind that it will take some time to adjust to your new teeth. New dentures may feel awkward for a few weeks until you become accustomed to them. The dentures may feel loose while the muscles of your cheek and tongue learn to keep them in place. These problems will diminish as you get use to your new teeth. It is very common to have several follow up appointments with your denturist to adjust area's of discomfort. Dentures are custom made for each person. Every person's mouth is different, kinda like your finger print is unique to you. To help with getting use to your new dentures read out loud or sing with the radio. Also, your first couple of meals should be at home, avoid eating out in public at first. Eating will take some practice. Start with soft foods, chewing slowly using both sides of your mouth at the same time. Be cautious with hot or hard foods and sharp edged bones or shells. All these things apply to those who have worn dentures for years but, have replaced worn out dentures with new ones.

Tooth loss can happen at any age, but it doesn't have to mean living without an attractive smile. And with a few small changes in your oral care routine and diet, you can be confident about living with dentures.

For more information call 541-476-0254.

The Silver Pages

Health and Medical

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- Mark. Twain

Helpful Tips for the Long-Distance Caregiver

By Brooke Fredericks, BS, CMC Owner, Right at Home Southern Oregon

Is living far away from the person you care for causing you guilt? It's normal to have feelings of guilt when you don't live close to the person you're caring for.

"As caregivers, guilt is our constant companion," says Amy Goyer, author of the book Juggling Life, Work, and Caregiving. "When you're a long-distance caregiver, it's even more so." But there are things you can do to make sure you're providing the best possible care from a distance. Research, planning and in-community resources are key.

Here are some tips for making it work: Get Informed and Stay Up To Date. Learn as much as you can about your loved one's health and daily routine. It's important to maintain an accurate and current picture of their health and abilities.

- If your loved one has any ongoing health conditions, learn how they affect your loved one's daily life, what medications and doctor visits are required, etc. If you are their health care power of attorney (or proxy), you will have access to detailed information from their health care providers. If not, you will need to rely on updates from your loved one or whomever is the health care power of attorney.
- Make a list of names and contact information that includes family members, friends, neighbors and anyone else who sees your loved one regularly and stay in contact with them.
- You may hear from them about sudden changes in your loved one's appearance, for example, which might be a cause of concern. Or a neighbor might let you know that your loved one's home needs maintenance.

Make a Plan. Once you've assessed your loved one's situation and needs, it's time to determine

what your role—and the role of others—can and should be.

- If someone else is taking the caregiving lead, find ways you can help. You might be able to manage finances online or research helpful resources.
- Find out if any relatives, neighbors or friends are willing and able to help.
- Research organizations that might offer support. Look into local in-home care providers and care homes, so you have information on those options handy if and when it's needed.

Hire Professional Help. Now that you've got your plan and research in place, you're well prepared.

- You can hire in-home caregivers who will do things like laundry and light housekeeping, get your loved one to their doctor appointments, cook meals, or a variety of other tasks.
- Geriatric care managers can help by coordinating the work of financial and legal advisers, elder law attorneys, community services and more. Go to aginglifecare.org.

Decide How Technology Can Help

- For personal safety, look into fall detection and medical alert devices.
- Security cameras set up outside the home can give you peace of mind about visitors.
- Electronic medication managers provide alerts and dispense pills.

Assure Your Loved One That They Are the Decision-Maker. In whatever decisions you make about caring for your loved one from a distance, always remember they still have self-agency. Decisions about how and where they live are theirs to make, unless, of course, they are incapacitated.

For more information call 541.414.0800 or em.ail brooke@rahsouthernoregon.net.

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Importance of Mental Health in Seniors

Submitted by New Horizon In-Home Care

While taking care of your mental health is important at any age, it becomes increasingly important as we age. As many as 1 in 5 seniors are affected by mental health issues, including anxiety and depression. Taking care of your mental health helps to support your physical health as well—studies show that having a positive psychological wellbeing leads to a decreased risk in heart attack and stroke. There are many ways to boost mental health in seniors and we'd like to share our favorite tips.

Meditation

Meditation in seniors has proven to decrease stress and anxiety and leads to improved sleep and increased calmness. Meditation can look different for every person—take 5-10 minutes to find a quiet, comfortable space and concentrate on your breathing. If you're intimidated to start meditation on your own, try an app such as Headspace or Calm. Test out different techniques to find what makes you feel the most relaxed and connected with yourself.

Social Interaction

A strong social life has been linked to many benefits including a decreased risk of depression and a longer life expectancy. Seeking out daily social interaction is a great way to boost your mental health—whether that be in-person with a friend, family member, or your in-home caregiver or virtually by talking over the phone, video, or writing a letter.

Make Time for Things You Love

Taking time each day to do something for yourself, whether it be big or small, has been

shown to increase mental wellbeing. Whether that means getting outside for a walk, reading a book, or watching your favorite show—try to carve out time for yourself each day.

Healthy Diet

A healthy diet supports a healthy mind. Ensuring that you are eating well-balanced meals can help support brain, eye, and gut health, as well as helps to manage chronic conditions such as hypertension and high cholesterol.

Seek Help

As we age it can be hard to accept that we may need help in our daily routines. It might be needing someone to assist in cleaning around the house, preparing meals, or helping with personal care tasks. Trying to do it all can lead to a build up of anxiety and stress—know that it is okay to ask for help. Whether it's from a loved one or a caregiver, letting help into your life can massively affect your mental health. Alleviating the burden of the physical task itself, as well as the mental stress that often accompanies it.

Supporting your mental health can come in many different forms and we hope that you are able to incorporate our tips into your daily lives. If you find yourself needing care or support, New Horizons In-Home Care can meet you where you are, providing personalized care to meet your specific needs. If you'd like to learn more, please call our office at 1-877-NH-CARES or visit NHcares.com to arrange for a free consultation.

The Joys of Caregiving

Submitted by Advantage Home Care

There are many great reasons to pursue a career in caregiving. Whether you are in NEED of a caregiver or have a desire to BE a caregiver, it is a mutually beneficial relationship.

If you find yourself in NEED of having a caregiver assist you with tasks such as housekeeping, meal preparation, companionship, shopping, personal care such as showering, dressing, ambulation and medication assistance, etc. you are not alone. Having a caregiver can improve the quality of life for many aging and/or people with disabilities. Clients have unique stories and life experiences that have shaped their lives and who they are. Often, clients enjoy sharing these experiences creating a deeper understanding and connection that provides an emotionally rewarding situation for both. Sharing in meaningful conversation and life stories has proven to decrease loneliness while concurrently providing insight and fulfillment for both client and caregiver.

One of the best aspects of choosing to BE a caregiver is the satisfaction that you gain from improving others quality of life. Often, the satisfaction caregivers receive from assisting clients creates feelings of joy and appreciation for both parties. Clients are grateful to have the assistance and caregivers are there helping them feel safe and comfortable.

Back in the "good old days" our elderly or disabled were mostly tended to by immediate family. Nowadays, families and individuals have many obligations and busy schedules that often times do not allow them the time to care for their loved ones with their everyday and minute needs. Having caregivers to provide this assistance for a loved one allows family members to focus on the relationship rather than the care needs. Many families struggle with wanting to provide care but lack the time or they do not feel comfortable being the person helping with personal care needs. With the assistance of a hired caregiver, the family can focus on being family which can alleviate the weight of being the caregiving family member.

"Caregivers are the unsung heroes of the healthcare system, they are the glue and the heart of care" ~Dr. Ronald Adelman.

For more information call 541-479-0993.

Home Care's Role in the Health-Care Continuum

Submitted by Home Instead Senior Care

Home care is a service that has often been overlooked by the health-care system, yet it is among the fastest-growing health-care industries in the United States, according to a report by IBISWorld (2019). A relatively young industry, home care is providing an innovative solution to the growing needs of a rapidly aging population. The home care industry was once seen as non-skilled or non-medical care such as companionship, transportation, or light housekeeping. Now agencies are expanding their offerings to include additional clinical services such as medication administration and diabetic testing. As a result, home care is helping to keep aging adults at home longer while making a significant economic im- pact. Home care services play an important role in the health-care continuum, including reducing hospital readmissions and achieving improved outcomes.

What is Home Care?

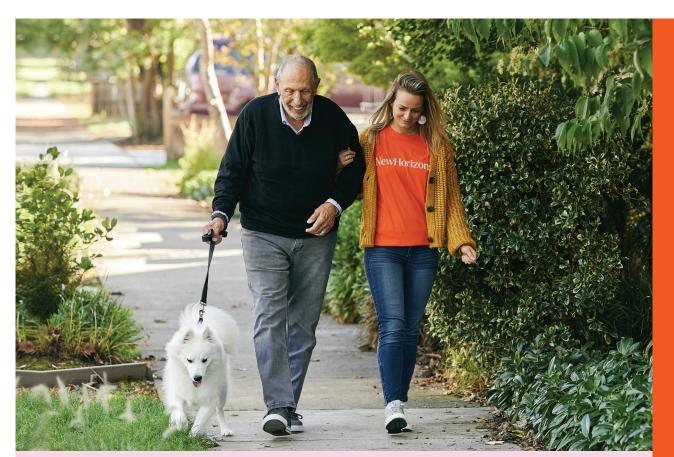
The growth of home care is the result of a need to fill the gaps that exist in traditional models of care. The desire of older adults to age in place, coupled with the limited availability of family members to help them achieve that goal, has also contributed to alternative options for care at home. Home care is provided by trained professionals who assist with a range of services including personal care, activities of daily living (ADLs), medication management and administration, home helper activities, transportation, and memory care support. These services are customizable based on each individual's needs. Traditionally, home care has been primarily private pay but now may be covered by other funding sources such as long-term care insurance or some Medicare Advantage policies.

Confusion happens when home care is grouped with home health care. It is important to consider that while the two services are complementary, they are different. Home health care is prescribed by a doctor as a medically necessary service. It may be covered by traditional Medicare or insurance for a limited amount of time (AARP, 2018). Home health care can be provided by a combination of medical professionals depending on the individual need. Medical professionals can include physical therapists, occupational therapists, social workers, registered nurses, or home health aides. These medical professionals are limited to the task at hand, making home care a nice option for additional support. For example, a physical therapist (home health care) may come in to assist with mobility exercises but cannot stay to help the individual cook a meal or assist with grooming. Home care does not require a doctor's order and covers a broad spectrum of services. Home care professionals can take extra time with the individual to help with nutrition, daily routines, and personal care. These home care services are tailored to meet the older adult's needs, assisting a few hours a day or up to 24/7 care.

The flexibility of home care allows for services to be provided in a variety of settings. Home care is a type of service that can span the entire senior care spectrum, from helping to preserve independence with light support to providing higher levels of care and supervision. It is important to keep in mind that there are various types of home care providers including home care agencies, home care registries, and independent home care workers. Below is a a brief description of each type.

- Agencies. Most home care agencies hire caregivers who are screened, trained, bonded, and insured, and the caregivers are employees. The agency takes care of all employment issues such as taxes, workers' compensation, performance issues, and continuing education. The agency also provides a replacement caregiver if the regular one is sick.
- **Registries.** A registry will recruit independent home care contractors, screen them, and refer them to the consumer, who is typically an older adult. The older adult becomes the employer and is responsible for all employment responsibilities such as taxes, scheduling, and performance issues. The independent contractor most often does not have a backup if he or she is sick and cannot work, nor is the independent contractor likely to have training or continuing education.
- **Independent home care workers.** Independent home care workers market themselves and find their own clients. Their criminal background and reference checks can come at the expense of the consumer, who is the older adult. All employment issues, including taxes, bond insurance, workers' compensation, and performance problems, are the responsibility of the older adult. There generally is no replacement if the independent caregiver is sick.

For more information call 541-734-2700.



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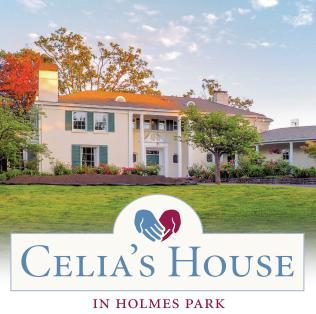
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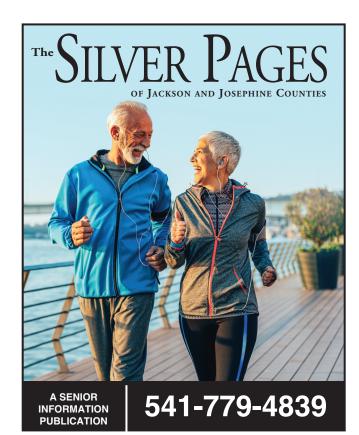
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Celia's House

By Dwight Wilson, Executive Director of Southern Oregon Friens of Hospce & Celia House

These last several years have and continue to evoke complicated emotions. There is one gift we can give to others that often brings a sense of connection and peace during difficult times. It begins with an engaged conversation with your loved ones about your wishes and hopes for how you would like to be treated in your last months. It helps those close to you make the right decisions.

As I watch the care we give to those who come to us, individuals who shared their wishes helped them live their final time in a peaceful and serene way, and helped provide relief from anxiety for their loved ones. Often this conversation doesn't begin because people might be fearful. It doesn't matter what you say, it is more important to open the dialog.

Here 's how it started in my family. Years ago, after I had a significant bike accident, one of my adult children asked what treatment I would want if I were tragically hurt. This question began a discussion with my spouse and our closest family members. The result was a clear understanding of my desires and a document that empowers my family to make these decisions. It was freeing and enabling for all of us to speak openly about our thoughts on care and end-of-life options.

Try starting with, "I'd like to share my hopes and dreams for my last months." You don't need a goal, it's an evolution of many conversations. As we age and go through health issues, our sense of what would like evolves.

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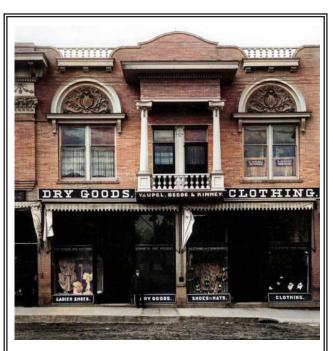
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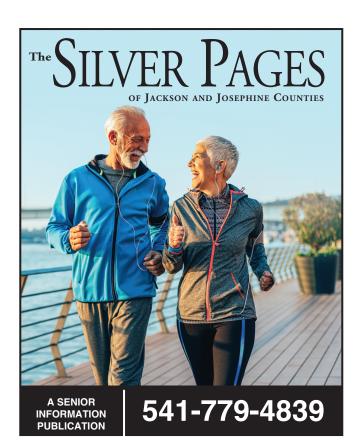
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Early 1900's This interior view of the Ashland Mineral Springs Natatorium and Sulpher Baths between 1st., A St., and Pioneer where Ashland Food Cooperative and Umpgua bank stand today.

Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an everlengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb.

Sir Winston Churchill. (1874 - 1965)

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Keeping Yourself Heart Healthy

Submitted by Black Oak Health Mart Pharmacy

Did you know that 80% of cardiovascular disease (CVD) can be prevented? You can reduce your likelihood of heart disease, heart attack, stroke, and heart failure.

Are you doing everything you can to avoid heart disease? Controlling high blood pressure and high cholesterol through healthy habits is the key to ensuring long-term heart health.¹

7 steps to a happy heart

- **1. Don't smoke.** Improved heart health begins within a day of quitting.² Make 2020 the year you become a non-smoker. Talk to your local pharmacist for recommendations on over the counter or prescription remedies that can help.
- **2. Exercise.** Regular exercise can help reduce your chances of developing high blood pressure and high cholesterol. It can also help you maintain a healthy weight and reduce your chance of developing diabetes.^{1,2}
- **3. Eat healthfully.** Limit salt, sugar, alcohol, saturated and trans fats, and processed carbohydrates for a heart-healthy diet.
- **4. Stay fit.** Did you know that waist circumference can be an indicator of heart disease risk? Your risk is higher if your waist measurement exceeds 40" if you are male or 35" if you are female. A BMI of 25+ is considered overweight and could be associated with higher blood pressure or cholesterol.²
- 5. Catch some Z's. Are you getting at least seven hours of sleep each night? Studies have indicated that not enough sleep is associated with higher stress, increased inflammation, high blood pressure, and weight gain all heart disease risk factors.¹
- **6. Don't stress.** Find healthy ways to manage your stress such as physical activity, relaxation exercises, or meditation.²
- **7. Know your numbers.** Monitor your blood pressure and cholesterol levels regularly and get screened for diabetes if you're are over the age of 45 or have risk factors for the disease. Did you know that many independent pharmacies offer screenings?²

Know the signs of a heart disease

Symptoms may vary from person-to-person – some people may show no symptoms at all until they experience a sudden complication such as a heart attack. Signs of chronic heart disease might include:

- Angina (pressure, squeezing, burning, or tightness, typically felt behind the breastbone, but it can also occur in the arms, shoulders, jaw, throat, or back)
- Indigestion
- Anxiety
- Fatigue
- Neck pain³

Did you know that men and women can experience heart attacks much differently? Symptoms could include:

- Heavy pressure on the chest
- Sharp upper body pain in the neck, back, and jaw
- Severe shortness of breath
- Cold sweats
- Unusual fatigue
- Dizziness/ light-headedness
- Nausea or vomiting⁴

Men are more likely to report classic symptoms of a heart attack such as pain that starts in their chest and radiates to their jaw and arm. Women are more likely to experience symptoms such as nausea, dizziness, shortness of breath and fatigue, even stomach pain. Because these symptoms can be associated with other, less threatening illnesses, women are more likely to delay treatment, often with devastating consequences. Prompt treatment offers your best chance for surviving a heart attack.⁵

For more information call 541-773-5356.

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Mobility Solutions, Home Accessibility, and Medical Supplies

Submitted by Expert Mobility

Living life with a disability can be very difficult with a wide range of challenges. From having a hard time getting in and out of bed, to losing the ability to walk or even sit up. It's important to know about the options that exist for people to help regain some or all of the independence they once had. While the three options above don't represent improvement through medical care options, they are important terms to know as they can serve as the umbrella terms for an entire industry that is ready to serve whatever needs you may have.

The term "Mobility Solutions" encompasses multiple products that can help with a variety of issues you may be facing. When you are in a wheelchair it can be especially difficult to travel. You may need a wheelchair van. These vans are specially designed for wheelchair users to drive from the wheelchair, or to be a passenger in the vehicle while remaining in the wheelchair during travel. There are a many other products that make this possible and are suited to the individuals' specific needs. A few examples are hand controls, docking devices, or even EMC equipment. Solutions also exist for vehicles that are not equipped with a wheelchair accessible conversion. These include the Link Seat, a Scooter or Powerchair Lift, and the Asento Seat.

"Home Accessibility" is exactly what it sounds like. These are products that help you regain your ability to access your home. Home Access ramps are a great start. These are ramps designed to get a wheelchair user, or even just someone that has a hard time with stairs, the ability to get back into the front door. Once inside, a whole other host of products exist. Stair Lifts for a two-story house, Ceiling Lifts to get in and out of bed or around the house or a full ADA bathroom remodel with a no threshold shower.

"Medical Supplies" are another line of products that can help make daily life easier. These range from larger items such as Lift Chair Recliners, Powerchairs, and Mobility Scooters, to smaller items, like a shower seat, commode, toilet seat riser, rolling walker, or bed rail. Medical Supplies have such a large range of product options you can find a solution to almost any issue you may be facing.

While online distributors are becoming more popular, these items are best purchased locally. This provides the ability to make sure what you are buying actually works for you. It's difficult to assess whether something will work correctly for a specific need from a picture and/or measurement. Along with that, the local repair support is a huge benefit. People that need these products depend on them heavily and having someone to call is invaluable. Whatever issue you are facing, it's important to know there is a product that can help you overcome whatever difficulty you are facing.

For these products and many others, call your local Expert's at 541-773-5994.

Coordinated Care Organizations

Submitted by Allcare Health

In addition to offering excellent and affordable healthcare coverage, AllCare Health also coordinates care across all the providers and specialists that Medicaid-eligible patients may need. This optimizes health and minimizes cost. AllCare Health is one of a unique set of businesses called Coordinated Care Organizations.

Oregon residents now obtain improved, integrated, and measurably better healthcare because of a pioneering 2012 state program establishing the Coordinated Care model. Coordinated Care focuses on primary care and prevention, oral health, behavioral health, and chronic diseases, allowing better management of health conditions. This results in a healthier population with fewer emergency department visits. This concept, which has now been adopted by 8 other states, is sometimes called an accountable care model. It has two important outcomes, better health and lower costs.

A Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) is a specific network of health care providers (including physical health, behavioral health, and addiction recovery) who agree to work together in their local communities, providing services under the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). AllCare Health is one of now 16 CCOs in communities in Oregon. Each CCO is guided by these key principles:

- Best practices to manage and coordinate care
- Shared responsibility for health
- Performance measurement
- Paying for outcomes and health
- Transparency and clear information
- Maintain and control costs at sustainable rates

Most people eligible for the OHP get their benefits through a local CCO. The CCO is your healthcare partner and helps you get the care you need and are entitled to. CCOs coordinate with various local providers, including doctors, nurses, dentists, counselors, and pharmacies on your behalf. CCOs provide you with answers to your coverage and eligibility questions, take care of any bills from providers, act as your advocate to resolve any health care issues, and monitor your health progress. In addition, you may be eligible for other CCO benefits on a case-by-case basis. Typically, as an OHP member, there is never any cost for these services.

Every CCO is a local organization with a fixed per-member budget that grows at a fixed rate for all healthcare services. Each CCO is accountable for health outcomes in its community population, and is governed by a partnership of health care providers, community members, and stakeholders in the health system, who each have financial responsibility and risk. Boards of governors, community advisory councils, as well as corporate officers have input and decision-making responsibility.

CCOs have more flexibility than traditional care-delivery models, allowing for innovation, community-specific efficiencies, and more rapid adaptations to changing community needs. This flexibility permits expenditures for services benefitting communities that are outside of traditional medical expenses, such as patient transportation, home-safety improvements, food security programs, and emergency housing for atrisk persons, to name a few. This creative approach improves the opportunity to meet the Triple Aim of better care, better health and lower costs for the communities they serve.

CCOs are grouped by county and even ZIP code, to deliver the maximum benefit to local communities. You can view a map of CCO coverage areas here: https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms /Served/le8116.pdf

Contact AllCare Health, or the CCO(s) in your area for a list of services, and how you can access them. Learn how here: https://www.oregon.gov/oha/hsd/ohp/pages/coordin ated-care-organizations.aspx

For more information call 541-471-4106.

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Natural Aging and Sensory Changes

By Sheri Curtright Providence Home & Community Care

Aging bodies are not for the faint of heart. Every decade seems to bring a new discovery in how to adjust to life. Below are some of the senses that can change with age. Changes to these senses can be misinterpreted as dementia, depression or general decline.

- 1. Hearing
- 2. Vision
- 3. Olfactory/ sense of smell
- 4. Taste
- 5. Balance

• Gradual hearing loss comes with age. Earlier onset hearing loss can be caused by exposure to loud noise on a regular basis damaging the hearing nerve. With the loss of hearing other problems develop especially for folks with advanced age. It affects balance increasing the risk of falls. Hearing loss causes folks to retreat internally because they can't hear conversations around them thereby preventing them from participating socially.

• Vision changes are probably one of the first signs of aging that folks notice. We start struggling with smaller print and find ourselves extending the page to an arm's length to try and focus. In addition our eyes can develop cataracts clouding the vision, especially at night with driving. Other eye diseases such as glaucoma, macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy further complicates the ability to see clearly. Like hearing, our vision helps with awareness of our surroundings helping to avoid accidents. When vision is impaired folks can't see obstacles in front of them, soil on their clothes, or read caution warnings on labels.

• Olfactory, or sense of smell is something else that can dull with age. Statistics show over

75% of people over the age of 80 have evidence of major olfactory impairment. It directly affects our ability to taste food flavors and causes lack of interest in the food we have normally enjoyed. At that point the attraction to food becomes more about texture than taste. In addition, our emotional wellbeing can be tied to our ability to smell. We've all had the experience where we aren't necessarily hungry, but we smell something cooking and our stomachs respond. The smell of a flower, perfume, campfire, or sea salt air can trigger memories from our childhood and experiences in our adult life.

Not having a sense of smell affects our quality of life. Often folks will isolate and generally retreat socially from this.

• Lack of coordination or balance disturbance is very maddening and also quite dangerous. In addition to normal aging, causes of balance instability can be from medication side effects or inner ear problems. The ability to catch ourselves when we trip or attempt to navigate a change in terrain decreases with age. The consequence of falling and breaking a bone is much higher with advanced age. Some medications can cause lightheadedness with a drop in blood pressure while standing from a sitting position. Positional vertigo is something else that can come on suddenly causing instability. When you add other infirmities such as neuropathy, stroke, and neurological diseases to the mix the likelihood of falling increases greatly. Keeping paths of walking clear in the home environment, removal of throw rugs and using assistive devices, such as walker or cane, can help prevent a nasty fall.

For more information on scheduling an inhome evaluation call541-732-6500

AllCare PACE

AllCare PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) is a Medicare and Medicaid program that provides clinical and social care services in order to assist seniors so they can remain safe & independent in their own homes, or in the community.

AllCare PACE is a comprehensive, fullyintegrated, provider-based, health plan for the most frail seniors in our community-those who'd qualify for nursing home level of care. The PACE model is centered around the belief that it is better for frail individuals and their families to be served in the communities they reside whenever possible. Although all PACE participants are eligible for nursing home level of care, 95% will continue to live at home.

AllCare PACE provides all Medicare-and Medicaid-covered care and services, and all other services the PACE team of health care professionals deem necessary to improve and This includes maintain your health. medications, as well as any other medically necessary care, such as doctor or healthcare provider visits, transportation, home care, social services, hospital visits, PT & OT, and coordinated social activities. All under the guidance of the PACE interdisciplinary team of professionals who provide comprehensive, coordinated medical services to help seniors age in place and improve the quality of life for them and their families.

To qualify for AllCare PACE, you must be 55 years or older, live within the service area (Josephine & Jackson County), need nursing home level of care as certified by the state, and be able to live safely in the community with the help of AllCare PACE. If a participant is dualeligible (Medicare & Medicaid), there are no deductibles, co-pays, or other cost for their total care. If you don't have Medicare or Medicaid you can pay privately for PACE services (fees vary, please contact AllCare PACE for more information)

Those seniors who especially benefit from AllCare PACE:

- ✓ Want to live at home, but need additional support
- ✓ Have difficulty getting to their doctor appointments
- ✓ Have absent, limited or stressed family support
- ✓ Are increasingly frail
- ✓ Need more coordinated medical care
- ✓ Need more social interaction

To see if you qualify for AllCare PACE, or for more information on how to enroll, call or visit us online at (541) 474-8000 or AllCareHealth.com/PACE.

Medicare Plans: Do you need a review?

Submitted by Kevin Campbell with Jones and Associates Premier Insurance Solutions

If you are feeling the squeeze in your pocketbook, wondering if your Medicare insurance will cover cost of health care in your golden years or wanting to increase your benefits - then the answer is YES!

Original Medicare doesn't cover all health care expenses. In a recent survey conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services healthcare cost are over \$11,000 per year when you're over 65 years of age. The good news is that most of this cost can be covered, but everyone's situation is different and needs a tailored plan.

Here are some reasons or signs you need to meet with an Independent Insurance Agent:

- 1. You're moving Medicare Advantage Plans, typically have specific coverage areas. If you move, your plan may not be available and it could be harder to find participating providers and if you choose to see out-of-network providers it may significantly raise your out of pocket expenses.
- 2. You're plans network is changing Medicare Advantage Plans operate as either a HealthMaintenance Organization (HMO) or Preferred Provider Organization (PPO), with a list of participating providers that comprise the network. Provider networks do not remain the same year-to-year. Before you renew your plan, confirm your preferred provider and health care facility remains in network as well as reviewing prescription drug formularies.
- 3. Out of pocket expense are increasing Insurance carriers might change premiums. In fact, this happens regularly and could be a sign to find a new carrier or discuss other coverage options. People often tend to focus on premium payments, signing up for a plan either because

of no or low monthly premiums. It is important to also check co-payment requirements and maximum out of pocket allowances. Sometimes it is better to pay a higher premium for a plan that covers more of your costs.

- 4. Want more benefits Historically, Medicare beneficiaries have chosen to receive benefits traditional Medicare with through а Medigap/Medicare Supplement Plan, but enrollments in Medicare Advantage Plans have grown. Today forty-five percent of Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan. The Common Wealth Fund asked people age 65 and older why they chose Medicare Advantage over traditional Medicare. Extended benefits, such as vision, dental or gym membership was the most common reason cited by those who chose a Medicare Advantage Plan.
- 5. Would like a Medigap/Medicare Supplement Plan – These plans "fill the gap" that original Medicare doesn't cover and allows beneficiaries to go to any health care provider, doctor, hospital or inpatient facility that accepts Medicare without the need for prior approval. In fact, greater choice was the most frequent reason given for choosing traditional Medicare with a Medigap/Medicare Supplement plan. Medical Advantage Plans, typically need a referral and plan approval.

When it comes to Medicare there are a number of information sources and options! Every Medicare beneficiary has an opportunity to review and change plans, these review windows are dependent on your coverage type and if have a special enrollment period created by a life event. Seek out an expert today to help answer your questions.

For more information call 541-778-2228.



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Early days of Black Swan Lake & Playground in Lithia Park, Ashland

Emerging Treatments for Dry Macular Degeneration

By Adam AufderHeide, MD/PhD, Retina Care Center

Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) is an eye disease found in people over the age of 50. Patients describe blurring or loss of central vision. This is due to the disease affecting the macula which is the central part of the retina. The retina is the light sensitive portion of eye. In people with macular degeneration, one of the earliest signs is the formation of drusen. Drusen form underneath the retina and are composed of debris made of proteins and fats that the body does not adequately clear. As macular degeneration progresses, there are two primary forms of vision loss. In nonexudative Macular Degeneration (also known as dry macular degeneration), geographic atrophy of the retina can occur. Geographic atrophy is an advanced form of degeneration caused by dry AMD that can lead to profound vision loss. In exudative macular degeneration (also known as wet macular degeneration), new blood vessels begin to grow and replace healthy retina with scar tissue. For many years, we've had medications, known as antiVEGFs, to treat wet macular degeneration by making the new blood vessels regress. Unfortunately, the treatment for dry degeneration, specifically macular the geographic atrophy that causes such profound vision loss has been untreatable, and even in wet AMD, geographic atrophy can still occur.

There are numerous risk factors development of geographic atrophy of macular degeneration. These include age (60+), family history (genetics is estimated to contribute approximately 70% of the role in GA development), diet high in fatty foods and cholesterol, high blood pressure, history of smoking, low physical activity, and obesity. Symptoms that patients typically notice is hazy or blurred vision, straight lines appear wavy or crooked, increased difficulty seeing in low light, a growing blurry spot in the center of their vision and colors seem dull or washed out.

The lack of therapy to treat progression of dry AMD represents a significant unmet need considering its effect on vision and the number of people affected. Estimates have suggested that there are approximately 1 million people in the US with geographic atrophy causing vision loss and approximately 5 million people worldwide.

Luckily, with such a need, a great deal of research has gone into strategies for reducing vision loss due to dry AMD. These include neuroprotection, reducing oxidative stress and reducing the accumulation of toxic byproducts of vision, use of stem cell therapy, and perhaps most exciting, suppressing inflammation. Ongoing research has suggested that GA may be caused by an overaction of part of the immune system. This leads to inflammation which contributes to the body destroying healthy cells in the retina. While this damage may start small, the cells continue to die off and form larger patches that can spread across the retina. Two new treatments are currently undergoing advanced clinical trials and may be available commercially soon. These target the complement system, binding to components of the system and inactivating them. The results seem to be promising in slowing or halting the progression of geographic atrophy.

If you have macular degeneration, you should talk to your retina specialist about these new medications and if they might be appropriate for you.

For more information call 541-842-2020.

Eye and Vision Difficulties

By Garry D. Kappel, OD, FCOVD-E, Lassmans Fine Eyewear

As we approach what some refer to as our "golden years", our bodies appear to adapt differently. We can accept this, or we can we make changes to prevent unwanted symptoms from creeping in. Many "aging" processes can be slowed or even alleviated. Often conditions considered normal for one's age....are not truly normal and/or due only to aging. The eyes and the visual system are a case in point. The visual system is not disconnected from the rest of the body; it comprises brain, vascular, nerve, muscle, and bone components. A holistic approach is often necessary to correct or alleviate symptoms. In over 50 years of practice, I have found our bodies are quite amenable to adjustments in nutrition, exercise, stress reduction and life style.

Symptoms which display in the visual system may include: Dry eyes, blurred vision, watery eyes, macular degeneration, headaches, cataracts, dizziness, vertigo, difficulty reading, slow learning, cognitive insufficiency, as well as allergy symptoms such as redness, itchiness, excessive tearing, and refractive errors.

Some causes of eye issues include: Inheritance may be a factor, compounded by emotional and physical stress factors, as well as life style choices; even prescription drug use may be a culprit. Other issues may be due to birth abnormalities, while still other vision symptoms result from disease and injury. Many eye and vision difficulties can be relieved by modifying the way one eats, sleeps, and changing life style choices.

Treatments I may suggest for improvement: After a thorough eye exam; I may suggest not only a corrective lens, but one which reduces eye stress, based on how a person uniquely uses their eyes. Life style changes...diet modification and/or supplementation with vitamins, an increase in exercise; as simple as walking daily and a form of relaxation to reduce stress. Modifications are encouraged, to reduce inflammation, build tissue and increase circulation which may include vison therapy, craniosacral or physical therapies to relieve traumatized tissue. Keeping active, not just physically, but socially and mentally is usually advised. Eating organically is ideal, while eliminating foods and beverages one is sensitive to. Reducing excess sugar, alcohol, coffee, refined carbohydrates... "Quality over quantity" is emphasized.

Some additional considerations will likely include:

- 1. Heart support....we need a strong healthy heart pumping blood throughout the body.
- 2. Vascular support...the eyes are highly vascular; support arteries and veins.
- 3. Eye nutrients...a comprehensive eye formula including vitamins, minerals, herbs, amino acids, plus essential fatty acids.
- 4. Brain support...the optic nerve is part of the brain.
- 5. Dehydration...causes many health issues especially in the eyes...excess coffee, tea, sugar, salt, white flour, polyunsaturated fats, carbohydrates and alcohol tend to contribute to dehydration. Drink good quality water (small amounts several times per day).
- 6. Ask your prescribing doctor what Rxs may effect vision negatively. "Know your drugs and their side-effects,"

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Jacksonville Museum, circa 1984.

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles and Leasing

By Murray Schwartz, Northwest Mobility

As many retirees are finding out, one of their loved ones can no longer get around without the assistance of a wheelchair. The situation is exaggerated when you have the need to get out on the town or just to doctors appointments. So many turn to Wheelchair accessible vans for transportation. There are typically 3 ways to pay for these vans. You can pay cash, finance it, or lease it. All 3 are options to consider, but leasing may be the best option for most of us that have retired and may not need this van for 7-10 years. Leasing gives us the advantage of having a van for a shorter term, typically 2-3 years without the expense of paying in full or having to worry about having a van you may not need 4 years down the road and still must pay for it. Many people think leasing is just like renting a vehicle but it far from that. Leasing gives you the same benefits as owning or financing it. The only difference is that you are paying for part of the van, and at the end of the term you can make the decision to purchase it, sell it, or just turn it in. The bank sets the residual based on what they feel the van will be worth at the end of the term and based on how many miles per year you will use it. A typical wheelchair accessible van starts at 5,000 miles per year and goes up to a maximum of 15,000 miles per year. The average usage for most people that lease a van is under 7,500 miles per year which is why this is a cost-effective way to have the least money invested into one. Plus, at the end of the term if the cost to purchase it is more than market value, you can just turn it in and let the bank take the loss. If you pay cash or finance the van, and a tragedy occurs where the one you loved that needed the van passes away you are stuck trying to sell it on your own or worst, have a repo back to the bank. In a lease you or your family can typically drop it back off at the selling dealer for a nominal fee, typically around \$995. And if there is no damage, and you haven't gone over the miles, no other fees will be charged, and your family can walk away from the van. As someone that has leased vehicles for over 30 years, it also gives us the opportunity to always have a vehicle that is covered by the factory warranty.

For more information call 541-930-6120.

How to Identify Elder Fraud Schemes

Submitted by Mid Rogue Imaging Center

Fraudsters are inventive but unethical individuals, so they're willing to use all sorts of methods to exploit others. The first step to avoiding elder fraud abuse is to recognize the common types of financial schemes that target older adults.

Romance scams. These types of scams typically take place online. A con artist will assume a fake identity and reach out to you through a dating app or social media. Then, the trickster begins to build rapport with you, sharing fictional details about their situation and asking questions about your life. They'll pretend to share common interests with you to further build trust. If you suggest meeting in person, the con artist will likely offer an excuse, such as being out of town. At some point during your interactions, they will find a way to ask for aid. They might say they're financial experiencing a health emergency or some other type of crisis.

Tech support fraud. Tech support scammers try to pull in people with deceptive phone calls, emails, text messages, or online pop-up windows. They'll tell you there's a security flaw or some sort of problem with your computer and offer to help you fix it. Then, they'll ask you to send them personal information, payments, or grant them remote access to your computer.

Grandparent scams. Some swindlers take a more personal approach and pose as your grandchildren or other family members. They often call their targets and ask for financial assistance to get out of dire situations such as legal trouble. These scammers research their targets, so they're able to use family names and personal information to earn your trust.

Government impersonation schemes. Some fraudsters pretend to represent government agencies such as Medicare, the IRS, or the Social Security Administration (SSA). They reach out via phone calls, emails, or text messages that claim you owe the government money or need to offer personal information. These con artists might use threats of fines or jail time to compel you to take immediate action.

Fake prize scams. Scammers may contact you and claim that you've won a prize in a contest or lottery. They'll say you need to provide personal information or send money to cover the cost of "shipping." Sometimes these scammers even send you a fake check and request that you send funds back to them.

Home repair fraud. These swindlers come to your home or call to offer repair services, such as new window installation or a bathroom renovation. In some cases, they ask for upfront payment or try to lure you into signing a loan that's part of the scheme. Once they've secured payment, they leave without actually doing any work.

Investment scams. Some fraudsters offer to help you make money through real estate investment seminars and coaching programs. Their typical pitch is that you can make a fortune by using their "proven" and "risk-free" strategies. They might even use fake testimonials and reviews to earn your trust. Of course, their phony offers will require you to make some kind of investment.

Caregiver financial elder fraud. Not all swindlers are strangers. Sometimes trusted family members or caregivers find ways to financially exploit older individuals. These might involve anything from taking cash directly from your purse to asking you for money to cover fictional expenses.

For more information call 541-472-5154.

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Do You Need More Protein?

By Tyler Giles, Healthway Nutrition Center

While many of us think protein is just for muscles, it's easy to forget protein is the main component of our skin, bones, organs and even our hair! Protein is also involved in hormones, neurotransmitters, and cholesterol. So, when you think of protein, think brain function, cardiovascular health, bone strength and more!

What exactly is protein?

Protein is composed of amino acids, which link together to form the ribbon-like structure we call protein. Often referred to as the building blocks of protein, there are hundreds of amino acids found in nature. However, only about 21 are known to be important for human health, including nine essential amino acids that we must get from our diet. Protein sources that supply all nine essential amino acids are considered "complete proteins"; most animal proteins are complete, as are soy, buckwheat and quinoa.

How much protein do we need daily?

While our bodies can store carbohydrates and fat, we do not store extra protein. This puts a unique demand on ensuring we get adequate protein daily. The average American adult is recommended to get at least 45-60 grams of protein, and most would do well to regard this as the minimum. As we age, our need for protein can increase, largely because we utilize it less efficiently.

General recommendations for individuals often begin by multiplying your weight in pounds by 0.36 to get a base number, and 0.8 to better protect against muscle loss. For example, a 140 lb individual would be recommended to consume about 50g daily (140 x .36 = 50.4), or up to 112g of protein daily (140 x 0.8 = 112). Note that these are rough examples, trying to determine a precise protein intake is best done by consulting with a doctor or dietician.

How can we meet our protein goals?

Start by looking at your main meals throughout the day. If you're eating three meals per day, are they each supplying about 1/3 of your protein goal? Protein-rich snacks between meals may be necessary and help spread intake throughout the day.

Many people enjoy using a protein shake either as a meal replacement or as a betweenmeal protein boost. When using a shake as a meal replacement, ensure your shake provides a balanced range of protein, fats, and carbs (including fiber). Alternatively, you can incorporate protein powders into your regular meals, such as stirring some whey protein into your morning oatmeal.

Final Thoughts

Ensuring you're getting enough protein can make a big difference at any point in your life. If you're considering adjusting your protein intake, good goals are to start with small adjustments and keep the rest of your diet balanced. Protein requires strong digestive function, and some individuals may benefit from digestive enzymes or other aides to make the most of their protein. Individuals using medications that reduce stomach acid are already hampering their protein digestion, as well as the absorption of other nutrients including minerals, folate and B12. It can be a challenge to juggle medication needs while encouraging strong digestion, so discuss how to best support your overall health with your doctor.

Your body demands protein to fuel all aspects of health, from your brain to your bones. Getting the right amount of protein is a cornerstone to aging gracefully, so take a moment to ensure you're getting enough.

For more information call 541-772-8659.

Mental Health Support Improves Lives of Older Adults

By Angela Franklin, Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist Options for Southern Oregon

As our lives have shifted over the last three years; now, more than ever, we see the need to repair social connection and promote health and wellness across all strata of society, and maybe most importantly, our aging community members. Cultivating good mental health is important to physical health and often they go hand in hand. When one works towards positive mental states (social connections, mindfulness, positive attitude), our bodies respond with reduced inflammation, strengthened immunity, and better sleep. This is great news, because we know how to decrease loneliness and isolation, two major causes of depression, anxiety, and stress, and the answer is not far away at all. The answer is community!

All across the country, and the world, people are coming to understand that community is one of the most vital and plentifully available resources we have. Getting involved with support groups or shared interest groups is a wonderful avenue to explore making new friends and even finding new hobbies or passion projects. The over-all health of a person is more likely to be greater the more the person has supportive relationships. There are groups specific to many different needs as well. From veterans to community volunteering; gardening to art, there are many wonderful opportunities right here in southern Oregon.

Did you know that many local fitness centers offer senior and ability specific group classes? It's true! Whether it is chair yoga to increase movement, flexibility, and balance, or aqua aerobics to move your body in a supportive and safe environment, these physical activities have strong mental health benefits of connection and community built in. In the same way that physical health groups exist, as do mental health community supports. And, just as the physical health groups increase mental health; mental health groups can improve your physical health. Finding a mental health support group, therapist, or program can increase your overall health, sometimes greatly.

Loneliness and isolation are far more common than you might think, meaning you are not alone in your lonely thoughts or feelings. One in four older adults have experienced anxiety and depression since the start of Covid 19, and those numbers may be even higher, when we consider how many of us do not report feelings of poor mental health whether because of the stigma surrounding these feelings, or the ill-wrought idea that isolation and loneliness are "just a natural part of aging". As the senior population is ever on the rise, reaching nearly one million adults 65 or older in Oregon by the year 2030, it is very important that we understand that aging does not have to mean suffering. Growing into elders of the community can be a rewarding and honored experience, but this requires keeping up with our new and changing needs. You may be experiencing low energy, feelings of sadness or grieving, or irritability for the first time in your life; this is okay. You are not broken, you just have new needs that are asking to be met. Meeting these needs with shared experiences and licensed professionals can be easy and even enjoyable. Taking agency in your health is empowering and benefits the whole community, as we need you now more than ever, to be healthy, present, and engaged with our shared future.

For more information call 541-244-4138.