

Observe the Warning Signs of Driving and Dementia

Caregivers must determine when their loved one's attention span, distance perception or the ability to process information makes it difficult for them to respond safely in driving situations. Their driving behaviors must be frequently observed.

Caregivers can easily miss the early warning signs of driving problems.

- Incorrect signaling
- Trouble navigating turns
- Moving into a wrong lane
- Confusion at exits
- Parking inappropriately
- Hitting curbs
- Driving at inappropriate speeds
- Delayed responses to unexpected situations
- Not anticipating dangerous situations
- Increased agitation or irritation when driving
- Scrapes or dents on car, garage or mailbox
- Getting lost in familiar places
- Near misses
- Ticketed moving violations or warnings
- Car accident
- Confusing brake and gas pedals
- Stopping in traffic for no apparent reason

Families need to be prepared. Recognize that adjustments in driving practices such as driving at low traffic times or only in familiar areas can reduce risk, but that many adults will have to give up driving at some point. Plan ahead. Know the transportation options in your area. Driving Evaluations are available; for further information call 239-343-2634.

The cost for a Driving Evaluation is \$80.00. Your Medicare and/or insurance will not cover this Driving Evaluation.