



ELDERCARE RESOURCE SERVICES



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"HELPING YOU HELP YOUR LOVED ONES"

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HEARING LOSS

Hearing loss is a common condition affecting seniors over the age of 65. Statistics show that one in three people over the age of 65 and half of those over 85 have some hearing loss. It is important to have your hearing tested by either an audiologist or otolaryngologist (a doctor that specializes in ear, nose and throat). Some people lose their hearing with a diagnosis of presbycusis. This hearing loss occurs when people can not hear high pitched sounds such as birds chipping or the ringing of a telephone. Low pitched sounds such

as a truck approaching usually can still be heard. Other reasons for hearing loss include listening to loud music, virus or bacteria, heart conditions, stroke, head injuries, tumors, and certain medications. If someone is experiencing hearing loss it is important to see a physician, get tested and follow their recommendations; which may include purchasing hearing aids. Some people do not want a hearing aid. There are 'amplifiers' like those sold at Radio Shack and others on line that can be used to help with hearing loss.

CONGREGATE HOUSING

Congregate housing is private apartments with shared living spaces for people over the age of 60. In order to qualify, a senior must be able to live independently without 24 hour supervision. There are services available to help with light housework, food shopping and assistance with bathing, grooming, and dressing. There is usually one home cooked meal per day, seven days per week. For those towns that have Congregate Living, applications can be completed at the local Housing Authority. There are also financial requirements. Interviews are arranged and the applicant's application is reviewed by a committee for approval.

ABOUT US

ElderCare Resource Services is a geriatric care management company co-owned by Linda Sullivan RN, and Debbie Gitner LCSW. Our unique Nurse/Social Worker team are able to provide both psychosocial and medical consultation to our clients. Linda and Debbie work together on each case; Linda is able to answer and explain the medical aspects and Debbie can assist with services. Clients can call either one of us as we always work as a team. We are strong advocates for our clients giving them information to make them better consumers; getting their relative the best care possible. Together we are able to assist our clients and their families with information on Home Care, Assisted Living, and or Nursing Homes. Linda and Debbie each have over 30 years working with the geriatric population. Now is the time to plan for the future. Call us today if you have a question about our services. We'll be happy to chat.

MEDICARE PART D

Open enrollment starts on Nov. 15th and ends Dec. 31st, 2006 for anyone who would like to switch their Medicare prescription plans. This is the one time of year that is available to Medicare recipients to change plans. Review last year's

medical cost of prescriptions to see how much money was spent out of pocket. Look at your current plan to see if your prescription medications will be covered. Discuss with your pharmacist the various plans to help determine if you should stay

with your current plan or if this is the time to change. For people with computers go to www.medicare.gov and read about the 2007 Prescription Drug coverage and/or read the Medicare Guide 2007 when it arrives in your mail.



Members of:
The National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers
and
The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

"Helping you help your loved ones"

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: My father continues to drive his car but I feel that he should not be driving? Is there anything that I can do to stop him from driving?

A: This is something that is on everyone's mind. How to convince their parent that they should not be driving. A Couple of options: talk with your father's primary physician about your concerns. He can call the Registry of Motor Vehicles and have them send him a letter that his license has been revoked. Another idea is to let your father know your concern and ask him to take a test put out by AAA. This test will either give you piece of mind that your father can still drive or show your father that he is indeed unsafe.

Q: I read in the newspaper that there is now a five year look back for transfer of funds when applying for Medicaid. My mother gave

me money within the last two years and I am responsible for paying her back? The money was a gift not a loan?

A: These are complicated times with recent changes in the eligibility requirements for Medicaid. There are many excellent lawyers that can review your mothers' financial situation and advise you. **ElderCare Resource Services** can talk with you about the financial situation and recommend some attorneys with a specialty in elder law.

Q: My mother is in a skilled Nursing Home. The facility wants to deny her Medicare benefits. I believe my mother is not back to her baseline. Do I have rights to appeal the decision?

A: Yes you do. Nursing Homes are looking out for their own best interest financially. **ElderCare Resource Services** can be called to review the record and talk with the staff to see if there are ways to capture more Medicare time. We are familiar with the denial process and can answer your questions about Medicare time in a skilled facility.

Q: My parents are still in good health, do I need to speak with a Geriatric Care Manager now?

A: Yes, planning for the future is very important. It is easier to learn and investigate options when you are not in a crisis.

ElderCare Resource Services feels that it is important to give family members information/education so they can make the best choices for their relative.