

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: THE EDUCATOR'S PERSPECTIVE



COMMUNICATING
WITH YOUR
PHYSICIAN

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COMMUNICATION

1

Clarity & Preparation

With loved one and family prepare a list of *prioritized* concerns ahead of time

2

Listening & Speaking

Taking notes says

"I'm serious about my care. What you say is important. I want to get it right."

3

We're in this together

1. Flies with honey
2. Glow Grow Glow
3. Say "thank you"

COMMUNICATION & ADVOCACY

4

Geriatric training is rare among Care Professionals

- 1. Check training and expertise**
- 2. Seek support Professions**

5

Wrap up and Follow up

6

Seek referrals if you are not satisfied with your care

7

Educate others and advocate for better care!

OTHER ISSUES



RESOURCES

Quick Tips—when talking with your doctor -

www.ahrq.gov/consumer/quicktips/doctalk.htm

Build your question list before going to see the doctor! -

www.ahrq.gov/questionsaretheanswer/questionBuilder.aspx

Questions are the answer –

www.ahrq.gov/questionsaretheanswer/

Additional patient safety resources -

www.ahrq.gov/questionsaretheanswer/level2col_1.asp?nav=2colNav01&content=06_0_resources

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: THE PHYSICIANS' PERSPECTIVE



COMMUNICATING
WITH YOUR
PHYSICIAN

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DIAGNOSIS

1

Diagnosis is by clinical impression

2

Clinical impression is mostly based on:

THE STORY

- *Activity of daily living problems?*
- *Onset and course over time*

THE EXAM

- *General exam*
- *Cognitive exam*

3

Other evaluation:

- **Blood tests**
- **Brain imaging**
- **Other choices: neuropsychological testing, PET, etc.**

MANAGEMENT

1

EXPECTATIONS

2

DRUG TREATMENT FOR COGNITIVE PROBLEMS

3

TREATMENT OF BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS:

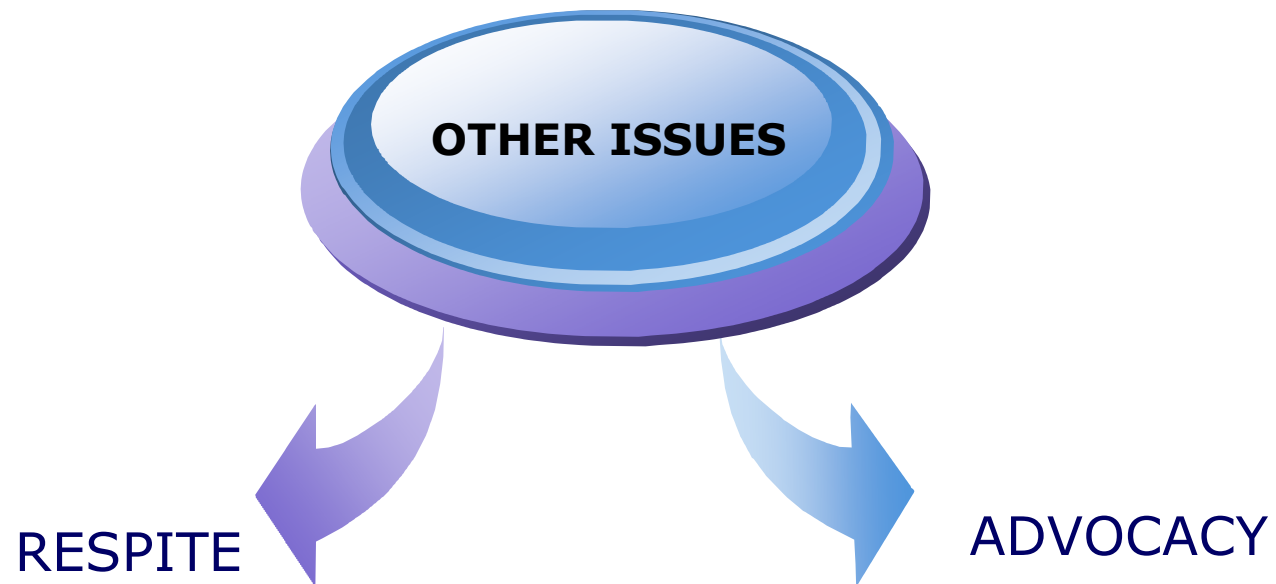
- *Non-medication approaches*
- *Medication approaches*

4

ADVICE ON RELEVANT SOCIAL ISSUES:

- *Driving*
- *Medical directives*
- *Wills*
- *Where to live*
- *Alzheimer's Association*

OTHER ISSUES



FUTURE NEWSLETTER/WEBINAR TOPICS

May 07 - **Communicating with your physician**

June 07 - **Falls**

July 07 - **Skin care skin breakdown**

August 07 - **Incontinence**

September 07 - **Transfer**

October 07 - **Medication related issues**

November 07 - **Durable medical equipment**

December 07 - **Red flags : signs it's time for a change in care**

January 08 - **Caregiver's health, stress and burnout**

February 08 - **Attitude, Attitude, Attitude!**

March 08 - **Funding healthcare and long term care**

April 08 - **Nutrition**

www.alzpossible.org/newsletter

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