



"In-Home Care Specialists"

Cincy Senior Corner

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Your Free Monthly Publication



DRIVING - Everyone's Safety

The Associated Press recently wrote about continued driving for Alzheimer's patients. A 35 mile drive through a rural community monitored by mini cameras in the car was constructed. On average the Alzheimer's drivers committed 42 safety mistakes compared with 33 for other drivers. Some Alzheimer patients drove just as well as their healthier counterparts.

According to this article, here's the key: Researchers also checked whether any of a battery of neuropsychological tests given beforehand accurately predicted who would drive worse – some did. Not passing simple memory tests didn't make a difference. Standard neurologic tests of multitasking abilities did, ones that assess if people's cognitive, visual, and motor skills work together in a way to make quick decisions.

Often times your parent's or loved one's driving skills come into question. You want them to be safe and don't want anyone else to get hurt. However, your parents or loved ones want their independence; we all want this. My mother, who is now 86, lost her driving privileges about 15 years ago. She always tells me this is the hardest thing to cope with as a person ages.

As the adult child you are put in a position of great difficulty. You want your parents to keep their independence. They don't want you telling them that they shouldn't be driving anymore. Their safety and the safety of others come into question. How do you deal with this?

Our Advice:

Fortunately in Cincinnati, there are at least 2 programs where an unbiased 3rd party can evaluate your parent's physical and mental skills to determine if driving is still an acceptable option. It is an accurate evaluation done by experienced medical people. Most importantly, it is done by someone else and removes the adult child from the difficult situation of taking their parent's keys. However, this is an evaluation with a determination to present to a doctor and not a legal notice. With the help of the doctor though, it can be effectively used to persuade your parents that not driving anymore is in everyone's best interest.

Two program options: Trihealth (513) 569-6777 and Mercy (513) 853-5211

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A Caring Choice provides In-Home Care Services to enable Cincinnati's elderly to safely remain in their homes. Services are personalized, affordable, available 7 days per week - 24 hours per day and include: cooking, cleaning, laundry, transportation, personal hygiene assistance, companionship and medication reminders.

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More Information: www.acaringchoice.com

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