

Restoring Hope and *Freedom*  
**Mary Free Bed**  
Rehabilitation Hospital

# Addressing the Needs of the Older Driver

**Greg Brunette, CDRS**

Mary Free Bed Hospital Driver Rehab

Restoring Hope and *Freedom*

**Mary Free Bed**  
Rehabilitation Hospital

# The Purpose of this presentation is to

- Provide information on options to address driving when driver performance/safety is in question.
- Provide information on accessing those programs

# Options for a driver when driver performance/safety is in question:

- Continue to drive without support of physician/family
- Refrain from driving
- Report to licensing authority/ state of Michigan
- Driving Evaluation

# First three options:

- Continue to drive without support of physician/family – “I have to drive, there are no other options!” (Relocation, Freedom)
- Refrain from driving – ideal, but not likely
- Report to licensing authority/ state of Michigan – fear- “I don’t want Mom/Dad not to drive, just to limit, change driving”

# What is a driving evaluation?

- Assessment that consists of a clinical and on road portion
- Addresses needs of older driver as well as individuals with disabilities or requiring transportation assessments
- Collaboration between Occupational Therapists and Driver Educators
- The goal is to make a recommendation regarding driving or transportation

# MFB Driver Rehabilitation Program

- Clinical Evaluation
  - Interview
  - Vision Screen
  - Informal Motor Assessment
  - Perceptual/Cognitive Testing
  - Observation
- **Behind the Wheel Assessment**

# Behind the Wheel Assessment

- RE 1
- RE 2 – location of a well marked business, self navigation
- Way-finding/Home area

# Outcomes of Assessment

- Pass
- Fail
- Training
- Documentation to referring physician

# Pass

- Report results of the evaluation to the physician
- Recommend return to independent driving

# Fail

- Report the results to the physician
- Recommend that the physician and/or family report the results of the evaluation to the Secretary of State

# Behind the Wheel Training

- Refresh driving skills
- Prepare for a SOS Road Test
- A road test with the Secretary of State is required to add adaptive equipment or restrictions to a driver's license

# Behind the Wheel Training, cont.,

- Restrictions
  - Limited distance
  - No freeway
  - No night driving
  - Adaptive equipment

# Behind the Wheel Training, cont.,

- Adaptive Equipment
  - Steering spinner
  - Left foot accelerator
  - Right side auxiliary controls
  - Special mirrors
  - Extended foot pedals
  - Hand controls

# Documentation

- Results of the evaluation are documented in a formal report
- The report is sent to the referring physician and to the client
- The report becomes a part of the client's medical record

# Where are these services available?

- ADED – National organization - membership list
- AOTA – National organization
  - Driving specialist
- CDRS credentials

# Review:

- Provide information on options to address driving when driver performance/safety is in question.
  - Continue to drive without support of physician/family
  - Refrain from driving
  - Report to licensing authority/ state of Michigan
  - Driving Evaluation
- Provide information on accessing those programs
  - ADED, AOTA, CDRS