

Law Enforcement's Identification and Referral of Medically Impaired Older Drivers

June 5, 2014

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A special thanks to the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, for a grant that was awarded to the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine to make this activity possible

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Presenters

- Linda Hill, MD, MPH
 - Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
 - University of California, San Diego
- D. R. "Ike" Iketani
 - Assistant Chief (Retired), California Highway Patrol
 - Consultant, University of California, San Diego




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NHTSA Priority

NHTSA's Older Driver Program 5 Year Strategic Plan 2012-2017:

Addresses the "need for law enforcement to have more training and information to help them **better assess warning signs and understand what next steps to take** and what actions are mandated by laws within their jurisdiction."

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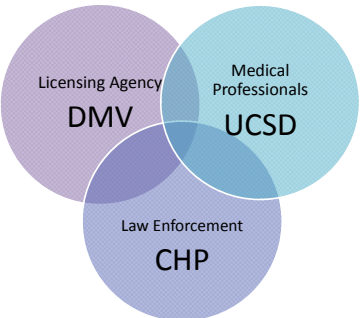
Presentation Overview

- Overview of Law Enforcement Curriculum
- Development and Validation of a Roadside Tool to Assess for Cognitive Impairment
- Demonstration of Methods to Assist with Identification of Impairments in Older Drivers
- Referrals for Driver Re-Examination
- Program Evaluation and Conclusions

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Background




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Law Enforcement Role

- Conduct/document traffic stops
- Source for helpful aging driver information
- Identify and refer at-risk drivers to licensing agencies



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Importance to Law Enforcement

- Older drivers overrepresented in intersection collisions (left turns, right of way)
- Often exhibit erratic driving behaviors resembling DUI, attracting Law Enforcement attention
- Difficult to distinguish cognitive impairment during traffic stop w/o targeted assessment
- Law Enforcement traditionally lenient with older driver violators
- Re-exam reporting more effective when supported by objective data
- Can issue re-exam referrals for suspected medical conditions, but process is underutilized

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Training Curriculum

Topic	Learning Objective Officer will understand:	Personnel
Aging and Medical Conditions	How age-related changes in health and functional status impair driving ability and increase crash risk	Physician
Older Driver Traffic Stop	Approaches to identifying impairment in older drivers	Law Enforcement
Driver Re-Examination	Enforcement actions for documenting suspected impairment	Department of Motor Vehicles
Driver Education and Evaluation	Resources to assist aging drivers maintain mobility	Health Educator

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Training Options

TRAINING CONTENT	2-Hour POST Certified	20-minute Shift Change
Demographics and Safety Risks with Aging	✓	
Medical Conditions that Can Impact Driving	✓	
Older Driver Traffic Stops: Observations and Communication	✓	
Driver Orientation Screen for Cognitive Impairment (DOSCI)	✓	✓
DMV DS427 – Documentation of Suspected Impairment	✓	✓
Resources for Older Drivers and Their Families	✓	

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Curriculum Examples

Older Driver Demographics and Impact of Aging on Driving

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Our Aging Population

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 11

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Strengths of Older Drivers

General Characteristics

- Take fewer risks
- More patient
- Possess greater life experience and knowledge of how actions impact others
- More compliant with the law
- Some self-regulate

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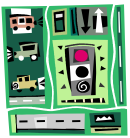
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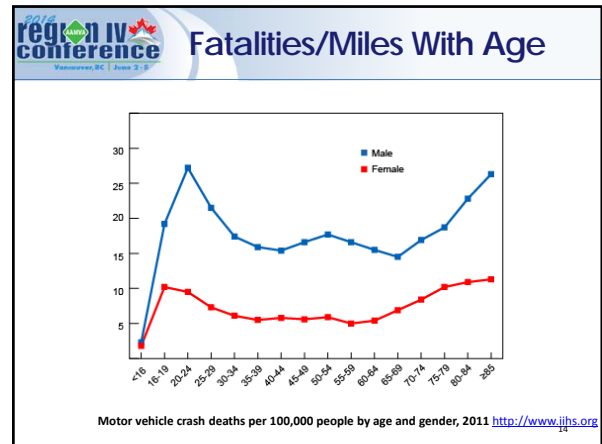
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Common Driving Errors

- Inadequate scanning of roadways
- Difficulty staying in same lane
- Difficulty making left turns and selecting correct lane when turning
- Inappropriate or delayed stopping
- Lane changes without signaling
- Pedal misapplication
- Failure to yield or respond appropriately to road signs or signals**



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Videos

“Medical Conditions that Can Impact Driving and Use of the DOSCI Tool”
Presented by Linda Hill, MD, MPH

“Recognizing Cognitive Impairment in Drivers: Case Example”

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California Re-exam Options

- Priority Re-exam**
 - Evidence of physical or mental incapacity
 - Violation must be observed or confirmed during investigation of a collision
- Regular Re-exam**
 - Not immediate traffic safety threat
 - Observed or Not; reported, second or third hand physical incapacitation, confusion or disorientation

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Mr. Jones' Errors

Ask ALL 9 Questions: Subtract one point for each incorrect response.

1. What is your date of birth? (-1pt.)
Fecha de nacimiento
Month, day, and year required; must match documents.
2. What is your full home address? (-1pt.)
Su dirección (número, calle, ciudad, código postal)
Address provided must match document; if not, prompt for address listed on documents.
3. What state are we in now? (-1pt.)
¿En qué estado se encuentra usted, en este momento?
4. What city/town are we in now? (-1pt.)
¿En qué ciudad se encuentra usted, en este momento?
5. Without looking at your watch, can you estimate what time it is now? (-1pt.)
¿Sin mirar su reloj, puede decirme aproximadamente que hora es?
Answer provided must be plus or minus one hour of correct time.
6. What day of the week is it? (-1pt.)
¿Que día de la semana, es hoy?
- 7-9. What is today's date? (-1pt.)
¿Cuál es la fecha de hoy?
Prompt for month, day and year if needed.
 - Month (Mes): (-1pt.)
 - Day (Día): (-1pt.)
 - Year (Año): (-1pt.)

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Mr. Jones' Results

SCORING CRITERIA	
5 or more incorrect	• Priority re-exam • Unsafe to drive; refer to department procedures for alternative transportation and vehicle removal
3-4 incorrect	• Regular or Priority re-exam • Potentially unsafe to drive; consider totality of circumstances
0-2 incorrect	• No Referral or Regular re-exam based on totality of circumstances

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Observations

- Pulling out in front of another vehicle
- Straddling lane lines/crossing double yellow line
- Slow to yield/respond to lights; stopped abruptly in traffic lane
- Not driving in direction of destination; daughter confirmed father has been lost previously
- Forgetful during conversation
- Unable to correctly state: date, year, day of week, city, current time, and current address

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Mr. Jones' Re-exam Form

OBSERVED DRIVING BEHAVIOR—Check appropriate boxes for driving problems you observe. (Use space below if needed for additional comments.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responding incorrectly to Emergency Signal/Lights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Failed to yield right-of-way
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drifting or weaving in and out of lanes	<input type="checkbox"/> Lost control of vehicle
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caused, or nearly caused, collision	<input type="checkbox"/> Struck stationary object
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not reacting to other cars, pedestrians, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Failed to go on green light
<input type="checkbox"/> Driving on wrong side of road	<input type="checkbox"/> Driving without lights during darkness
<input type="checkbox"/> Driving on sidewalk	<input type="checkbox"/> Made turn from wrong lane
<input type="checkbox"/> Driving in wrong lane	<input type="checkbox"/> Fell asleep while driving
<input type="checkbox"/> Driving too slow, impeding traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> Violent or aggressive driving
<input type="checkbox"/> Failed to stop at red light/stop sign	<input type="checkbox"/> Not adequately controlling vehicle
<input type="checkbox"/> Unsafe/inappropriate lane change	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Observations _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inappropriately stopped	


DRIVER CONDITION (Observations after Stop/Collision)—Check all appropriate boxes below. Please use the space below to provide specific details, if known, and the driver's medical (physical or mental) condition such as name of disease or illness, any medications taken, etc.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confused, disoriented, incontinent, or unaware of actions	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol/Drug Use (Describe below)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suspended/Observed Medical Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> Confused by traffic
<input type="checkbox"/> Little or no recollection of incident	<input type="checkbox"/> Lost or confused while driving near home
<input type="checkbox"/> Medicated	<input type="checkbox"/> Blackout/Seizure/Fainting
<input type="checkbox"/> Vision Condition/Visual Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/> Driver appears to need help with hygiene and/or dressing appropriately
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental/Emotional Condition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Observations <u>Mr. Jones appeared agitated during questioning.</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Driver reported he/she did not see cars, pedestrians, etc.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty Walking	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weakness or Coordination Problems	

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Physician's Guide


- American Medical Association & National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
- **"Physician's Guide to Assessing and Counseling Older Drivers"**
 - Quick screening and referral tool
 - Available at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/go/olderdrivers>



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States with Mandated Physician Reporting



California
Delaware
Georgia
Maine
Nevada
New Jersey
Oregon
Pennsylvania

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DMV Senior Driver Ombudsman

- Role of the Ombudsman is to help seniors keep driving as long as they can do so safely
- Help navigate the DMV process
- Work with people to include those with disabilities, strokes, head injuries, etc.
- https://www.dmv.ca.gov/about/senior/senior_ombudsman.htm



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Meet Dena Kline



- Wilsonville, OR
- 80 years old
- 5 Feet Tall
- 80 Pounds
- Chemotherapy for Bone Cancer
- Asthma and Pain Medications

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Program Evaluation and Conclusions

Results are based on 1,878 Law Enforcement Officers trained between October 2010 and August 2013

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Ability to Recognize Cognitive Impairment

■ 0-49% Increase
■ 50-100% Increase

25%
75%

My ability to recognize cognitive impairment in older drivers has increased by _____ %

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DOSCI Usefulness

- 89% of officers responded they were *likely* or *very likely* to incorporate the *Driver Orientation Screen for Cognitive Impairment (DOSCI)* into their assessment of older drivers
- 92% of officers responded that the results of the DOSCI will help in preparing the DMV "Notice for Priority Re-Examination of Driver"

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Officer Comments Post-Training

- "I had no clue older drivers faced these problems"
- "I learned a lot; I will use this knowledge. I am more confident dealing with older drivers now"
- "Offer more frequently. First time I have received this training in over 16 years"
- "I have gained a greater understanding of the conditions affecting our older drivers; I will use more compassion and my new-found understanding of these issues when interacting with such persons"

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Officer Comments Two-Year Follow-Up

- "The DOSCI gave me something concrete to write down on the referral for re-examination form"
- "Offers more security of better decision-making"
- "Training was useful; now we know what to look for"
- "Continue doing what you are doing to keep us refreshed"
- "A phone app of the DOSCI would be useful"

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Law Enforcement Training

- Validated process
- Developed with collaborative partnerships
- Uses personal experiences
- Helps identify skill deterioration and cognitive impairment

TSA
People Saving People
www.tsa.gov

People
Injury Prevention ▶ Older Road Users


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Resources for Driver Education, Assessment & Referral



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NHTSA



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The Hartford



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Driver Improvement

- AARP Mature Driver Improvement Course**
Online or Classroom
- I Drive Safely**
Online
- Defensive Driving Course**
- Private Driving Schools**



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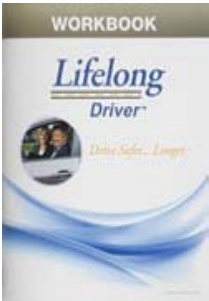
Driver Rehabilitation Specialist (DRS)

- Performs comprehensive driver evaluations (clinical and on-the-road evaluations)
- Provides intervention to address and strengthen areas of impairment
- Prescribes vehicle modifications
- Determines the need for driving cessation
- Provides information and counseling for alternative transportation issues

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Lifelong Driver

- Interactive computer course & workbook
- Driving simulations for hazard detection, visual search & oncoming gap analysis
- Takes 8 hours




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AAA Roadwise Review

- Free, confidential online self screen; done in home
- Measures eight functional abilities related to crash risk
- Takes 30 – 45 minutes



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AAA Roadwise RX

Roadwise Rx Your tool for understanding how medications may affect you and your driving.

Enter your medications below
 Begin typing the name of a medication that you are currently taking below and then select it from the list. Once you have entered all your medications, both prescribed and over-the-counter, click "View Results."


WHAT IS ROADWISE RX?
 Begin typing the name of a medication or herbal supplement... [NEED HELP?](#)

DRUG NAME GENERIC NAME

[View Results >](#) [Legal Disclaimer](#)

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Alzheimer's Association



24/7 Helpline: 800-272-3900

Conclusions

- Age-related driving impairment is a serious and growing public health problem
- Law Enforcement can play a major role in the identification and referral of impaired drivers
- Training curriculum resulted in significant changes to knowledge, attitude and intent
- Law Enforcement feedback was positive at all levels of experience
- California Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) has certified the training for two hours CPT credit

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Contact:

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