

# National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA)

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The information that follows was included as an attachment to an email submitted by the public.

For more information about NAPA, visit the NAPA website at:

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/national-alzheimers-project-act>

Finally... the bottom line is: if this was you at age 65...ask yourself: "How would you like to be treated



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**Offering Quality  
Care to our Seniors**



**Human Service Center**

## Red Bud, IL

### Seniors— Who are they & what are their unique issues?

- A Senior: an adult who is between 55 to 100 years of age.
- They may have a chronic illness along with the reason they have come to the hospital (diabetes, arthritis, heart disease, breathing difficulties).
- They may have difficulty hearing and seeing; this may show up in non-compliant behavior due to confusion about what you are asking, not seeing the documents or papers you are requesting them to sign.
- The skin of Senior adults tears more easily than that of a middle age or younger person—the least little bump can produce a huge bruise.
- Senior Adults may additionally have fears about being in a hospital or ER setting due to a sense of powerlessness. This may even be more evident when they are having to be transferred from a gurney to a table (such as in Radiology). Telling a senior what is going on and what is next will go a

long way in making their visit to the hospital or doctor a less traumatic one.

- The bones of our senior adults are also brittle and can more easily bruise or break. Special consideration may need to be taken for this issue
- Seniors deserve our respect—they have lived on this planet longer than most of us. A few compassionate words of assurance to them will go a long way towards gaining their cooperation.
- To gain their trust, it would be important for hospital staff to permit the senior's caregiver to remain in the room while triage is in process.
- Please be aware that a senior may not always know or carry the most current information regarding medications or background history. It may be important to consult a caregiver to fill in these gaps in some instances.
- Please also be aware that many seniors will not ask questions if they don't understand a particular diagnosis or even for the treatment you are prescribing. Let family members know what is going on

in order to get fuller cooperation from  
both family and individual..