

Assisting Residents with Transportation

Learner Workbook



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ASSISTING RESIDENTS WITH TRANSPORTATION

There are various benefits of transportation to residents in Assisted Living and Residential Care Communities. For example:

- Activity outings
- Medical appointments
- Psychosocial benefit of residents regularly getting out of the Community

One of the main benefits of transportation is providing safety to the residents.

Vehicle Safety

A complete vehicle inspection should be conducted before each use. Always follow your Community/organization policy.

A safety inspection should include at least the following:

- Tire pressure
- Spare tire check
- Safety equipment check (first aid kit, fire extinguisher, road flares)
- Seat belt check
- Phone/radio check

Preparing Your Resident For An Outing

First let's take a look at resident safety.

- Determine amount of supervision and assistance needed during the outing
- Consider the impact of cognitive impairments, if applicable
- Bring assistive devices, if applicable
 - Eye glasses, hearing aids, sunglasses, walker, wheelchair, cane, etc.

Grooming and appearance is also essential when preparing a resident for an outing.

- Sun protection (e.g., hat, sunglasses, etc) if appropriate and if preferred by the resident
- Consider weather (jacket, sweater, etc)
- Safe and comfortable shoes
- Consider the resident's self-esteem, and assist into appropriate clothing accordingly
- Always consider resident preferences

When preparing a resident for an outing you want to ensure he/she is able to receive his/her medications as prescribed by the physician.

- Bring resident medications on the outing if necessary
- Ensure appropriately trained and/or authorized individuals will be available to assist with and supervise medications

Another aspect to consider is preparing residents with emotional preparation.

- Answer the resident's questions/concerns ("What time are we leaving?" "What time will we be back?" etc.)
- DO NOT hurry or rush the resident
- Create a pleasant experience

Medical Appointments

Prepare necessary documentation in advance. For example: list of current medications, physician orders, insurance cards, resident identification, etc. Be sure to arrange for supervision/assistance during the appointment.

- Some residents may be able to stay at an appointment alone, many cannot
- Confirm with your supervisor

Assistance Into A Vehicle

It is important to know the features and equipment of each vehicle used in your care Community. Always provide necessary assistance/supervision. Clarify any questions you may have with your supervisor.

Using a lift:

- Confirm the instructions from your community and the lift manufacturer
- Improper use of a lift can lead to serious injuries
- Do not exceed the load capacity of the lift
- Inspect the lift before using it