National Alzheimer’s Project Act (NAPA)

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
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.