

## Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Fact Sheet

### ALS:

- is often called Lou Gehrig's Disease
- is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, causing progressive loss of control of voluntary muscles
- causes the nerves controlling these muscles to be destroyed. People in the later stages of the disease may become totally paralyzed and the progressive degeneration of the motor neurons eventually leads to the person's death
- usually causes no sensory or cognitive impairment
- progression will vary from person to person, however declines can occur very rapidly.

---

### Potential Deficit Areas:

- muscle weakness, range of motion and functional loss in one or more of the following; hands, arms, legs, and trunk
- twitching and cramping of muscles
- thick speech and difficulty projecting voice
- difficulties with speech, swallowing and breathing



---

### Impact on Driving/Transportation:

- A person in the early stages of the disease may still be able to continue to drive with adaptive driving equipment, however, planning for future decreases in strength and function is necessary.
- Prior to driving with adaptive equipment, the person will need a driving evaluation ([www.aded.net](http://www.aded.net))
- A modified vehicle, most often a lowered floor minivan or full size van with a lift, will be needed for long-term transportation needs.
- A buy back program for the vehicle purchase often brings comfort and security to the individual and their family.

---

### Possible Vehicle Equipment Needs:

- Lowered floor minivan or full size van with a lift
- Adaptive driving equipment specifically recommended for their individual physical abilities and custom fit by a certified technician
- Special set ups may be needed for oxygen and ventilator needs in the vehicle

### ABOUT RIDE-AWAY:

Ride-Away is America's largest provider of modified vehicles and adaptive equipment for people with disabilities. Ride-Away products are used by individuals with minor to profound disabilities requiring additional assistance while traveling and range from hand controls and lifts to raised door and lowered floor vehicle modifications. Founded in 1986, Ride-Away's 11 East Coast locations are committed to offering a broad selection of specialized vehicles and services to meet the needs of every customer. All of Ride-Away's locations are also QAP (Quality Assurance Program) certified through the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA), resulting in Ride-Away being held to the highest standards in the industry. For more information, call (888)-RIDE-AWAY or visit our website at [www.Ride-Away.com](http://www.Ride-Away.com).