

Parkinson's Disease Fact Sheet

Parkinson's Disease:

- is a chronic and progressive movement disorder
 - occurs when neurons in the substantia nigra region of the brain die or become impaired. These cells normally produce a chemical known as dopamine, which allows smooth, coordinated function of the body's muscles and movement
 - symptoms appear when approximately 80% of the dopamine-producing cells are damaged
 - effects approximately one million Americans
 - approximately 15% of people are diagnosed before the age of 50 and incidence increases with age
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Potential Deficit Areas:

- Resting tremors of the hands, arms, legs, jaw or face
 - Stiffness or inflexibility of the muscles
 - Slow, shuffling gait
 - Difficulty initiating movements and sudden stopping of ongoing movement
 - Impaired balance and coordination
 - Dementia and memory loss
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Impact on Driving/Transportation:

- A modified vehicle, wheelchair lift or transfer seat may be needed for a person who now requires a scooter or wheelchair for mobility or has difficulty transferring into an unmodified vehicle.
 - Usually no adaptive driving equipment will assist the individual; however if continuing to drive is a goal, a driving evaluation should be completed to determine if the person has the cognitive, visual, perceptual and physical ability to continue driving. (www.aded.net).
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Possible Vehicle Equipment Needs:

- Wheelchair or scooter stowage lift
- Transfer seat
- Lowered floor minivan or full size van with a lift



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.