

# **Baby Boomers Today and the Challenges Tomorrow: Taking Care Of Your Older Patients**

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## **Abstract**

This course provides the audience with an overview of current aging concepts and challenges relevant to the optometric practice. Practical tips for effective geriatric eye care delivery are given. Public policies and forces impacting geriatric eye care practice are reviewed.

## **Learning Objectives**

1. To understand key aging concepts and challenges affecting geriatric eye care.
2. To better appreciate how future trends in an aging society will change optometric practice.
3. To understand how to make a practice more geriatric-friendly.
4. To improve eye care delivery for older patients through effective patient management strategies.
5. To appreciate the role that public policies play in eye care for the aging.

## **Outline**

### **I. Aging Concepts and Challenges:**

- A. Convincing demographic dynamics and trends ! ! !
- B. Adding life to years or years to life?
- C. Geriatric health care delivery challenges of today and tomorrow.
- D. Changes necessary for optometric practices to meet the demand:
  1. Patient care
  2. The role of caregivers
  3. Services
  4. Community

### **II. Delivering Effective Eye Care to Our Aging Patients**

- A. How do you make your practice geriatric friendly?
- B. Communicating with those having hearing impairment.
- C. Managing vision impairment: low vision rehabilitation in the primary care setting.
- D. Eye care delivery in the long-term care setting:
  1. Trends and practice patterns.
  2. Tips for examining patients.
- E. Care of the patient with mild, moderate, and severe cognitive impairment (dementia, Alzheimer's disease).
- F. Pharmacological considerations with older adults:
  1. Commonly prescribed drugs for older adults.
  2. Polypharmacy.

### **III. Maximizing Your Geriatric Practice**

- A. The oldest old as the fastest growing part of our population:
  - 1. Verticalization of the family tree and the sandwich generation.
  - 2. Geriatric practice patterns
- B. Using the aging network to improve your practice.
- C. National Health Care and the evolving Medicare program:
  - 1. Low Vision Demonstration Project.
  - 2. Reimbursement/ billing tips.
  - 3. Part D and its impact on optometric practice.

### **IV Aging Public Policy and Eye Care Update**

- A. Visual Health and Aging agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> century
  - 1. Influence in shaping eye care-related public policy
  - 2. Optometry's interests
- B. Outcomes of the December 2005 White House Conference on Aging
  - 1. Access to eye care and eliminating barriers for seniors and baby boomers
  - 2. Eye care-related resolutions
  - 3. The next 10 years in aging public policy
- C. How can Healthy People 2020 improve care for older adults?
  - 1. Review of HP2020 goals
  - 2. National Eye Institute's support of HP2020
- D. Trends in vision requirements for older drivers

### **V. Successful Aging and Successful Vision in Conclusion**

- A. Summary
- B. Take home messages

### **VI. Reading References**

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