6 Aging Parents and Options in Care

The following is a list of supplies that may be needed. Review this list with a medical professional.

Medical Equipment and Supply Checklist:

Blood Pressure Cuff Commodes Diabetes Care	
Foot Care Gloves Hot/Cold Therapy	
IV Supplies Incontinence Products Lift Chairs/Belts	
Mobility Products Orthopedic Care Security Necklace	
Ostomy Products Oxygen Supplies Syringes & Disposals	
Skin Care Stockings	
Urology Supplies Walkers/Walking Aids	
Wheelchair Wound Care Products	

Alice had always kept her home spotless. Recently, Mary started noticing that when the housekeeper isn't there, her parent's bed is not being made. At times, dishes sit in the sink all day. The mail sits on the kitchen table in a pile. Mary wonders if the bills are getting paid on time. When she offers to help out with paying them, her father refuses assistance. He told her that he has always paid the bills himself and he always will. Mary sees bruises on her father's arms, but Jim says he doesn't know how he got them. There are times when he will not wear his hearing aids.

The front headlight of their car is cracked, and the rear bumper has a sizable dent that was not there a few weeks ago.

Mary is making notations in her assessment to review with their physician next week.

Almost half of older adults do not follow their medication regime properly, and this results in approximately one-third of hospitalizations due to mistakes and forgetfulness. With many elderly people taking multiple medications throughout the course of the day, it is imperative that they have a clear understanding of when they should take pills.

Labeling weekly pill cases and daily reminders may lessen any confusion. Keep track of medications and make necessary changes with this log sheet. Use this as a source to take on their medical appointments and review with a professional. A pharmacist or healthcare professional can advise you of potential drug interactions and possible side effects.