



Audio Transcript
Other Issues Related to Memory Problems Video
KP South San Francisco Medical Center • Neurology Department
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Welcome to the video about “Other Issues Related to Memory Problems”.

Hello. This is Dr. Craig Hou. I am a Neurologist at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in South San Francisco. You may be meeting me or one of my physician colleagues at your appointment. Thank you for watching this video.

When someone has memory problems, there are issues to consider. These include, but are not limited to, home safety, driving and Advance Directives for health care.

People with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia may not be safe to be alone or live by themselves at home.

Regarding home safety, there are many issues to consider. These include, but are not limited to, balance problems and falls, wandering, and forgetting to turn the stove off.

- First, the person may have balance problems and fall. Problems can occur if no one else is at home to help them.
- Second, the person may be at risk of wandering out of the house and forgetting how to find their way home.
- Finally, the person may forget to turn the stove off. This can be dangerous because it may cause a fire.

Driving is another issue that may need to be addressed. The California Health and Safety Code requires physicians to report individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and those related disorders that are severe enough to be likely to impair a person’s ability to operate a motor vehicle.

The reporting process starts with the physician filing a report to the local county health department when a person is diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia. The information is then forwarded to the Department of Motor Vehicles. DMV decides if a driving reexamination is appropriate or if the person’s license should be suspended or revoked. Family members or friends may report a person to the DMV directly using the Request for Driver Reexamination form that is available from DMV’s website.

If the person with memory problems is required to stop driving, transportation options can be discussed with a social worker.

Another issue to consider is Advance Directive for Health Care. An Advance Directive for Health Care is a legal document. It allows you to tell your doctors and others what kind of medical care you would like to get before you are too sick and unable to make those decisions -- for example, because of memory and judgment problems or dementia.

An Advance Directive for Health Care also allows you to name one or more persons who will work with the doctors to make sure your choices are carried out. You may have completed one as part of a living trust.

If you have done an Advance Directive for Health Care in the past, please bring a copy of it to the Memory Evaluation appointment. If you have not completed one before, a social worker can review with you how to complete one. Kaiser Permanente offers free classes where you can learn more about Advance Directives for Health Care and where you can even complete one. Public notaries are available at these classes to notarize the document.

On behalf of the staff at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in South San Francisco, thank you for watching this video series. If you have any questions or concerns, please bring them to the appointment.

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