

Dementia Diagnostic Clinic Network Spring Meeting  
May 16, 2025

# Engaging Patients with Dementia and their Care Partners in Decisions about Transitions to Non-Driving



Department of Family Medicine  
and Community Health  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
Driving Decisions Lab

KJ Hansmann, MD, MPH, PhD  
Family Medicine and Community Health  
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

1

## Life After Stopping Driving



### Current Norms

Decisions made because of crisis  
Family/friends making the decision  
Decreased quality of life

### **Social and Health Consequences**

Social isolation  
Depression  
Cognitive decline  
Decreased physical function

2

2

# Driving Decisions in Dementia



## Current Norms

Decisions made because of crisis  
Family/friends making the decision  
Decreased quality of life



## What We Hope For

**Decisions made because of past planning**  
**Person with dementia involved in plans**  
**Sustained quality of life**

3

3

# Talking About Driving and Dementia

Stage	Common Early Changes	Talking Points
<b>Mild Cognitive Impairment</b>	Mild memory problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal is to balance safety and independence in all routine activities</li> <li>We want to prepare for transitions and avoid crises</li> </ul>
<b>Mild Dementia</b> (without driving problems)	Difficulty managing bills, medications, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Just because you have dementia does <i>not</i> mean that you categorically can't drive at this stage."</li> </ul>
<b>Mild Dementia</b> (with driving problems)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"It isn't that you've done something wrong, and none of this is your fault, but we're at a point where I'm worried about your ability to handle some of the chaotic scenarios that can come up while driving."</li> </ul>
<b>Moderate or Severe Dementia</b>	Difficulty dressing or bathing self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"I'm glad you haven't made any mistakes or gotten into crashes, but the risks of driving are too high for you and the community."</li> </ul>

4

4

# Engaging Patients with Dementia in Decisions about Driving

## Goals of the 2024-2025 Research Project

**GOAL 1:** Learn about opportunities and challenges for discussion transitions to non-driving

**GOAL 2:** Plan a study to implement a “Driving Decision in Dementia” intervention in clinics

## Next Study Goals

**Surveys:** Learn about patient and caregiver’s readiness and their preferences for talking about stopping driving

**Advisory Boards:** Review and refine the “Driving Decisions in Dementia” intervention

**Testing:** Learn about barriers and successes by piloting the “Driving Decisions in Dementia” intervention in clinics

5

5

## Study Team



**KJ Hansmann, MD, MPH, PhD**  
Family Medicine and Community Health  
UW School of Medicine and Public Health



**Jane Evered, PhD, RN**  
Family Medicine and Community Health  
UW School of Medicine and Public Health



**Tony McDonald, PhD**  
Industrial and Systems Engineering  
UW College of Engineering



**Alyssa Turnquist**  
Family Medicine and Community Health  
UW School of Medicine and Public Health



**Darona Woods, MS - Community Research Associate**  
Community-Academic Aging Research Network  
UW School of Medicine and Public Health



**Mia Croyle, MA - Community Research Associate**  
Community-Academic Aging Research Network  
UW School of Medicine and Public Health



**Kat Phelps, PhD**  
Wisconsin Network for Research Support  
UW School of Nursing



**Kim Neuschel, RN**  
Wisconsin Network for Research Support  
UW School of Nursing

6

6



Department of Family Medicine  
and Community Health  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
Driving Decisions Lab

KJ Hansmann:  
[kellia.hansmann@fammed.wisc.edu](mailto:kellia.hansmann@fammed.wisc.edu)