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- ↑ injury risks due to physical and cognitive impairments; may be unable to recognize dangers; increased risk for falls
- Unfamiliar environment and presence of strangers may cause confusion and/or agitation and falls
- Suspected elder abuse, neglect, or unsafe situations must be reported

## **General Age Specific Care:**

- Preserve dignity and autonomy as much as possible
- Involve family with plan of care
- Encourage reminiscence and validating concerns.
- May require re-orientation to environment, time, and day
- Injury prevention precautions (fall prevention, skin integrity maintenance)
- May require increased use of assistive devices (canes, walkers, wheelchairs)
- Never use terms of endearment (honey, sweetie, darlin')
- Provide adequate lighting and ensure adequate warmth due to ↓ heat regulation

## **Patient Education:**

- May require longer time to learn; ensure use of communication aids (hearing aid, eyeglasses)
- Face patient and speak slowly and distinctly; do not shout
- Include significant other/family members in education and decision making
- Allow verbalization of fears and concerns