

# For Health Professionals

## Health Alerts

### **Health Advisory #99 - Re-Evaluation Of Someone's Driving Ability - August 31, 2004**

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has a new form that physicians can use to request a re-evaluation of someone's driving ability. It is a mechanism for you to address potentially unsafe drivers. This form, DS-6, is available on the DMV's website under forms, and it is set up so that you can type in the info right on the computer and then print it out. The form can be found at <http://www.nydmv.state.ny.us/forms/ds6.pdf>.

Erie County's Older Driver Family Assistance Help Network is a group of concerned individuals and agencies who are working to improve the safety of an at-risk driver. The Help Network knows how important safe mobility is for people of all ages. It supplies information about available services, helps caregivers with problem solving, works to remove barriers to services and helps caregivers to assist an at-risk driver to either drive safely or step away from the wheel. Nationally, almost 8,000 people aged 65+ died in 1999, and another 209,000 suffered non-fatal injuries in crashes. An older driver is more vulnerable to injury in a crash than a younger driver, and there are increasing numbers of older drivers in Erie County.

Consequences of not acting include severe injury or death of the driver or their passenger, a child on a bicycle might be hurt, nagging questions left if you do not act, driver's estate tangled up in legal action and driver's lifetime record of safe driving ends in sadness and unspeakable regret.

You can contact the Erie County's Older Driver Family Assistance Help Network at (716) 858-8526 or go to their website [www.erie.gov/driving](http://www.erie.gov/driving).