

# The Sibley Report

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*...valuable information to make your job and life easier! To suggest topics, please call Angela Veri, National Director of Customer Relations. Sibley & Associates is a national disability management firm with close to fifteen years experience, nearly 300 staff/consultants and advanced technology.*

## The Unique 55+ Client

It's a fact - the demographics speak for themselves; the Canadian population is aging. As a result, we can expect to see an increase in cases of older clients. There are a range of physiological and psychological issues that make the 55+ population unique:

- 32% of adults over 55+ suffer from chronic pain/discomfort and 39% have experienced some level of activity restriction due to a chronic health problem, making assessment of prior de-conditioning critical because it may negatively impact recovery.
- 23.3% of adults aged 65 to 74 have mobility problems (42.9% for those 75 and older), making comprehensive assessment of pre-accident mobility status critical.
- 4.3% of Canadian seniors report being limited by memory problems or periods of confusion.
- often has pre-MVA medical conditions/injuries that must be addressed before initiating treatment.
- has longer recovery and rehabilitation timeframes making early intervention imperative.
- often benefits from drawing on the expertise of healthcare professionals to help establish relationships with specialized health/community services tailored to this population.
- requires the expertise of professionals experienced with this population and/or with graduate work in Gerontology to ensure the use of assessment tools especially relevant for this population.

Please use the attached checklist as a helpful tool to ensure your 55+ clients receive specialized services.

Unique challenges require unique solutions! To make the most impact, it is important that rehabilitation plans for 55+ clients are tailored to address their unique issues. The 55+ population:

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## 55+ Checklist

If your client is 55 years or older with one or more of the following criteria, it is beneficial to consider referring him/her for a program that specializes in the 55+ population:

<b>Client is 55 years or older and...</b>	Requires assistance with re-integration to home	
	Suffers from complex or multiple injuries	
	Has extensive pre-MVA medical history	
	Lives in a remote area	
	Lacks medical and/or family/community support	
	Is a primary caregiver	
	Has pre-existing deficits	
	Has pre-MVA de-conditioning	
	Has experienced psychosocial changes since the MVA	
	Needs vocational alternatives assessed	
	Resides in convalescent or adult living environment	

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