

The Aging Population

Communication Matters - The Doctor's Office

Edith:
So why am I here anyway?

Daughter:
You remember - we're checking on the pain you've been having in your tummy.

Edith:
I don't have any pain.

Daughter:
Mom, yes you do. You were in a lot of pain yesterday, remember? You were having trouble walking.

Edith:
Okay. Okay I guess. Am I going to have to go through a bunch of different tests?

Doctor:
Hello.
Hello Edith. How are we doing today.

Daughter:
Well she's been having some pain this week.

Doctor:
Just hold on a minute.
Okay - there you are - okay.
What kind of pain is she having?

Daughter:
Well it's - Mom, what's the pain like?

Edith:
Well - ...

Doctor:
Is it a sharp pain, or dull?
Where is the pain exactly?

Edith:
What kind of pain are we talking about?

Daughter:
Mom, the pain you've been having in your tummy. It was so bad you had to lie down this morning. Show Dr. Greenway where the pain is.

Edith:
Oh, okay. It's right here.

Doctor:
Is she constipated?

Daughter:
I don't think so. Mom, have you had any constipation?

Doctor:
How's her appetite?

Edith:
Well...

Doctor:
Is she sleeping okay?

Edith:
What were we saying?

Doctor:
Are you sleeping?
Mrs. Bentley, are you sleeping?

Edith:
No, no. Not very well, I guess.

Doctor:
Well, let's get to the bottom of this, shall we?
Will you let me take a look at your tummy?

Edith:

Oh, yes, that would be fine.

Doctor:

Wonderful. We'll just get you up on the table then so we can take a look.

Edith:

Oh, okay dear.

Doctor:

I'll let you put on a gown, and I'll be right back, okay?

Edith:

Okay. Thank you very much.