Unit #18 Elderly Care

Below is a list of the vocabulary needed to pass this unit with a good score.

**ailment**
a minor illness  
"He complains of many unusual sounding ailments, but we can find no evidence of any problem."

**bathe**
to clean, wash  
"All patients need to be bathed once per day."

**bedsores**  
a sore or rash developed by the pressure of lying in the same place for an extended period  
"Bedsores are a real problem for coma patients."

**cognitive**
relating to cognition or the brain  
"Diet has been proven to have an effect on our cognitive processes."

**companionship**  
a feeling of company, friendship  
"One of the advantages of retirement homes is that the residents have a lot of companionship."

**dementia**  
a decline in mental ability severe enough to impact on daily life  
"A lot of elderly people suffer from dementia and as a result have problems with their memory."

**functional disability**  
a long term limitation resulting from an injury, condition or illness  
"Although he is in good physical condition, he suffers from a mental condition which has led to his functional disability and is unable to care for himself."

**glaucoma**  
a condition of increased pressure within the eyeball resulting in loss of sight  
"Glaucoma is most often treated with eye-drops, but if untreated it can result in blindness."

**grooming**  
activities such as brushing ones hair, doing ones make-up and generally taking care of ones appearance  
"It is a mistake to think that only female patients need help with their grooming."

**hospice**  
a home providing care for sick, elderly or terminally ill patients  
"Many terminally ill patients are given a new lease on life in hospice care."
**impairment**
the state of being weakened, damaged or diminished
"He spent three months recuperating after the eye surgery, but still has a slight impairment in his sight."

**incontinent**
unable to control natural discharges of urine / feces
"One of the most embarrassing things for elderly patients is becoming incontinent."

**infirm**
frail, weak - often connected to age
"She is very infirm and should not go out alone."

**interaction**
the process of reacting to and responding to a stimuli
"All humans need interaction as we are social creatures."

**osteoporosis**
a bone weakening disease
"Many senior citizens need hip replacements are a result of osteoporosis."

**outcome**
a result, effect
"The family waited nervously before the doctor gave them the outcome of the tests."

**pre-existing**
something which already was already before
"Most insurance policies do not allow for treatment of pre-existing conditions."

**regimen**
a prescribed course of medical treatment
"It is important to finish the regimen of antibiotics."

**residential care**
long-term care given to patients in a 'home' setting
"A lot of elderly people who cannot live comfortably on their own make use of residential care, where a nurse comes to their house."

**respite care**
short-term care given to patients who cannot be cared for by family
"As her family live in Australia, Susan spent two weeks in respite care after her operation."

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