



## Key Issues Related to Health Care and Aging

Health care is made difficult because:

- People with intellectual disabilities have had an historic lack of involvement in their health care
- Carers may lack knowledge of health issues for this population
- Information about the individual is often not available
- There is limited expertise and access to specialists in this area
- There are negative stereotypes of people who are aged and have a disability
- Often more than one health issue is presenting at the same time
- Cooperation and collaboration among carers is often difficult

### **Diagnostic Overshadowing**

The presenting problem is assumed to be related to the person's intellectual disability

*OR*

The presenting problem is assumed to be related to the person's age

*RATHER THAN BOTH*

### **Complicated Management**

Responding to the health needs of aging individuals with ID requires a collaboration and combined input from:

- the individual
- family members
- support persons
- medical staff
- non-medical providers
- allied health professionals

[Information Sheet No. 2 has a corresponding Challenge Sheet No. C2]