

Hospice Foundation of America's Program

DEMENTIA AND END-OF-LIFE CARE: CLINICAL RESPONSES AND INTERVENTIONS

Online CE Course

DESCRIPTION

People with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia are the fastest growing segment of the hospice population. This program will address strategies to help hospice and end-of-life clinicians understand the complex challenges that these diagnoses present at life's end. Experts will share information about various types of dementia, their progressions, and how to support the emotional and logistical challenges faced by patients and families. The program will also stress the role of hospice and palliative care professionals in raising awareness about dementia.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The online presentation features an experienced professional offering their own expertise on the topic. On the screen, you will see the slide presentation and will be able to see and hear the expert presenters.

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| RELEASE DATE: | Program originally premiered March 11, 2025 |
| ON DEMAND: | Viewing available to registered individuals for 6 months after purchase. |
| LENGTH: | 90 minutes |
| CE HOURS: | 1.5 hours |
| CONTENT LEVEL: | The program is mainly for professionals already working in the field, but is practical for all levels of education – entry level, intermediate or advanced. |
| TARGET AUDIENCE: | The course is useful to Health care clinicians, social service clinicians and others working in the hospice, palliative care, counseling, hospital, nursing home, funeral home or faith community environments |

HOW THE ONLINE COURSE WORKS

Step 1 - Register/purchase the course

Step 2 - View the course online through the link in your confirmation email or in your account.

Step 3 – Complete the online exam and evaluation

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

A computer and reliable internet connection. Mobile service provider charges may apply.

REGISTRATION AND COURSE MATERIALS

Register directly online, on HFA's website: www.hospicefoundation.org.

There are no refunds on registration. *Few exceptions may occur depending on the circumstance. To request a refund, a written request must be received (and granted) by HFA.

Course materials include the online program video, slides, and viewer guide. All course materials are accessible online immediately after registering.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS PROGRAM, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. Recognize common symptoms and challenges faced by patients living with dementia and their caregivers in the final stage of dementia.
2. Apply strategies and interventions for supporting patients living with dementia and their caregivers at the end of life.

3. Develop and plan education and awareness about dementia in broader community and healthcare settings.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (10 minutes)
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Need statement
 - c. Overview of presentation
- II. Understanding Dementia (20 minutes)
 - a. Disease Progression
 - b. Impact in EOL Care
- III. Common Symptoms (20 minutes)
 - a. Physical (pain, swallowing, etc.)
 - b. Cognitive/Behavioral (delirium, agitation, etc.)
 - c. Emotional (anxiety, depression, etc.)
 - d. Interventions
- IV. Supporting Caregivers (15 minutes)
 - a. Addressing needs of family and caregivers
 - b. Navigating difficult conversations
- V. Role of Hospice and Palliative Care in Dementia Education (15 minutes)
 - a. Educational role
 - b. Community impact
 - c. Advocacy and public awareness
- VI. Q&A and Wrap-up (10 minutes)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

This program is valid for 1.5 contact hours of continuing education. View the current list of board approvals on HFA's website at www.hospicefoundation.org, located on the program's registration page.

COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

Participants must view the entire 90-minute program (online-streaming video). Partial credit is not awarded. Participants must also complete the entire CE process online before a certificate is awarded. The online CE process includes a required evaluation form and exam. The exam must be completed at 80% or above (the exam may be re-taken, if necessary).

EXPERT PRESENTERS

André Cernasov, DO, joined Agrace in August 2024 and is board certified in both family medicine and hospice & palliative medicine. Prior to this role, he practiced inpatient and outpatient palliative medicine at Advocate Aurora Health from 2021 to 2024, where he also served as the Associate Program Director for the Aurora HPM Fellowship in Milwaukee, WI. Dr. Cernasov graduated from Johns Hopkins University and earned his medical degree from Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York City. He is passionate about academics and is dedicated to educating learners of all backgrounds about hospice care, as well as ensuring that all patients maintain comfort and dignity when dealing with life-limiting illness.

Deanna Rymaszewski, MSW, APSW, APHSW-C, is the Clinical Educator – Social Worker for Agrace Hospice Care, a not-for-profit hospice based in Fitchburg, WI that serves South Central Wisconsin. She has a Bachelor's degree in Spanish, with an emphasis in Hispanic Health and Human Services, and a Master's in Social Work. She is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Social Work (DSW) program at Simmons University. She has had the opportunity to work with diverse populations in Milwaukee and Madison as well as surrounding areas. She has experience working with the elderly, physically disabled, and terminally ill and their grieving families. Deanna has worked as a Social Worker, Bereavement Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator. In her current role, Deanna develops education on a wide range of end-of-life topics including advance directives, what to expect, dementia, grief, and bereavement. She presents to Agrace staff as well as the local community members and providers.

REVIEWER

Angela Novas, MSN, RN, CRNP, *Senior Medical Officer*, Hospice Foundation of America

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES:

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Stephanie P Wladkowski, Cara L Wallace, Current Practices of Live Discharge from Hospice: Social Work Perspectives, *Health & Social Work*, Volume 44, Issue 1, February 2019, Pages 30–38, <https://doi.org/10.1093/hsw/hly040>

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SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITY (ADA)

Reasonable accommodation may be made available, on an individual basis. To request accommodation, please contact HFA via email at educate@hospicefoundation.org or call 800-854-3402, or write to HFA, 1707 L Street NW, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20036.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Planners (Panelists and Reviewers) disclose no conflict of interest relative to this educational activity.

FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR ADDRESSING GRIEVANCES, please contact:

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