

# Primary Care Provider Training to Detect Dementia and Support Patients and Families

## What is Dementia Care Aware?

Dementia Care Aware is a training and support program that empowers primary care teams to assess and address dementia.

The cornerstone of our program is an online training for an annual screening for people 65 and older called the cognitive health assessment (CHA). This 5-10 minute screening can fit into several types of visits. This includes routine visits, Medicare visits such as Initial and Subsequent Annual Wellness Visits (AWV), and during Health Risk Assessments.

Dementia Care Aware has additional training on many topics, for example: next steps in a dementia evaluation, how to create care plans with patients and their care partners, and how to perform the CHA in different languages or with patients who are living with serious mental illness. We also provide tools for implementing dementia detection and care in clinical practice and connecting patients and care partners to community resources.

## Why is screening for cognitive health important?

- Dementia will soon affect 1 in 5 older Californians.
- Dementia impacts a person's ability to self-manage their day-to-day activities and other medical conditions.
- Detecting dementia early:
  - Allows you to connect the person and their caregivers to resources early
  - Improves quality of life for affected persons and their caregivers
  - Reduces unnecessary costs of care
  - Allows you to start a brain health plan earlier, which can slow progression

## What is the Dementia Care Aware CHA?

The CHA is a quick tool that can be completed by different members of a healthcare team. Additionally, it is completely free to the patient, easy to score, uses tools that are validated in primary care and can be done in multiple languages. The CHA process consists of:

### STEP 1

Taking a brief patient history, for example through a question such as "Have you noticed any changes in your memory or thinking abilities this last year?"

### STEP 2

Using screening tools. Use validated tools to assess cognition and function, which can be given to the patient or a care partner.

### STEP 3

Documenting care partner information. Do a brief assessment of the patient's support system.

## Who can do the cognitive health assessment?

All members of the care team can conduct the CHA, but a billing provider must do the final review and documentation. An example of a potential team model might be:

- At check-in, the patient receives a survey that includes a question about memory symptoms.
- The Medical Assistant assesses function by assessing activities of daily living (ADL) and/or instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) by asking the patient the questions on the functional abilities' checklist.
- The Nurse conducts a Mini-Cog with the patient.
- The Social Worker assesses the patient's support system and documents it.
- The primary care provider, a Physician or Advanced Practice Provider, reviews and interprets the results, discusses the results and next steps with the patient, and documents the CHA components.

## What are the recommended tools for screening (Step 2)?

The table below outlines the recommended tools that can be used with the patient or an informant to satisfy the requirements of the CHA.

Coverage	Cognitive Screening Tools	Functional Screening Tools
<b>Patient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mini-Cog OR</li> <li>GP-Cog part 1 OR</li> <li>Telephone based tool TBD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADLs and IADLs</li> </ul>
<b>Informant</b> (If no informant available, must document that)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AD-8 OR</li> <li>Short IQCODE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAQ OR</li> <li>GP-COG part 2</li> </ul>

## How does the CHA fit into the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit?

The Medicare Annual Wellness Visit includes a requirement for a cognitive impairment initial screening and allows flexibility on the tools providers can use for this screening. The Dementia Care Aware CHA may be used as a resource for this screening. If the patient screens positive on the CHA, then a more in-depth evaluation should be done, including the 60-minute face-to-face Cognitive Assessment and Care Planning (see CPT-4 code 99483).

## Who can take the Dementia Care Aware trainings and get Continuing Education (CE) credit?

Anyone can take the trainings provided by the Dementia Care Aware program. However, the below professions are eligible for CE credit.

AWSB	ANCC	AAPA	AMA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensed Clinical Social Worker</li> <li>Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist</li> <li>Educational Psychologists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nurse Practitioner</li> <li>Certified Nurse Midwife/ Licensed Nurse Midwife</li> <li>Doctor of Nursing Practice/ Nurse Practitioner Student</li> <li>Registered Nurse</li> <li>Advanced Practice Nurse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physician assistant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physician (MD, DO)</li> <li>Nurse Practitioner</li> <li>Fellow</li> <li>Resident</li> </ul>

Participants must attend the live webinar to receive credit. Previously recorded webinars are not eligible for CE. At the end of each webinar, the moderator will share a link with instructions for how to claim credit for that specific webinar.

## How do I claim continuing education credits for online modules?

Complete a evaluation survey at the end of the modules to receive a continuing education certificate.

## Who can use the Dementia Care Aware clinical resources and access the practice support?

All members of the health care team can use our trainings, toolkits, and resources.

## How do I access the Dementia Care Aware training and resources?

- Visit [DementiaCareAware.org](http://DementiaCareAware.org) for training and resources.
- Contact us using the warmline for consultative support on programmatic and clinical questions.
- Email [DCA@ucsf.edu](mailto:DCA@ucsf.edu) with any questions.
- Sign up for the Dementia Care Aware mailing list.