

## **Recognizing & Assessing Medical Emergencies When Dementia is Part of the Picture**

### **Description:**

This session is designed to help professional caregivers provide more effective and accurate assessments of pain status and possible medical emergencies when dementia is present. It is well-known that people with dementia have difficulty communicating their needs and distress in a clear and understandable way as the disease progresses. The focus of this session will be to help caregivers use preserved abilities, observable behaviors and signs, and their knowledge of what is "usual" or "normal" for the individual to help screen for changes that should be investigated. Emphasis will be placed on distinguishing among changes that typically signal a worsening of dementia, an acute medical condition or emergency, medication side-effects that are significant, a "bad day", depression, and pain or discomfort that deserves attention and intervention.

### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this program, the participant will be able to:

1. Identify common signals or signs that people with dementia exhibit when "something" is wrong versus when they are having a "bad" day.
2. Describe common screening maneuvers that can and should be used to rule out some common problems that can occur when the person has dementia which can result in "agitation", "distress", "sleepiness", or worsened disorientation and confusion.
3. Discuss some of the most common causes for acute changes in function, behavior, or alertness/distress.
4. Discuss effective techniques to report changes in behaviors to other health care providers unfamiliar with the person who has dementia so that appropriate interventions are provided in a timely manner.

### **Instructor:**

**Teepa Snow, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA**  
**Raleigh, NC**

Teepa is an occupational therapist currently working as a dementia care and dementia education specialist. She has an independent practice. She has clinical appointments with Duke University's School of Nursing and UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Medicine. She provides educational and training sessions to organizations and providers throughout the US. She also lectures for gerontology and health professional programs at colleges and universities across the country. She provides training and education for Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer Society conferences, state health care provider organizations, professional association meetings, and caregiver programs and organizations. She works closely with several assisted living and retirement communities, hospice and day service programs, & dementia specialty service providers throughout the US to improve and optimize programs and services to people with dementia and their families.

Teepa has 30 years of experience in geriatrics. Previously, she served as the education director and lead trainer for the Eastern NC Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. She has also been a program director and an instructor for community college and a clinical associate professor at UNC's School of Medicine, Program on Aging. She has a strong and varied clinical background. She was the OT director in a head injury facility, a clinical specialist in geriatrics at a Veteran's Administration Medical Center and has worked as a restorative care coordinator for long term care facilities, as well as providing direct care in community, home health, long term care, assisted living, and rehabilitation settings. She has worked collaboratively to conduct clinical research in a variety of settings and on a variety of geriatric topics.

Teepa was born in West Virginia and raised in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. She attended Duke University as an undergraduate and graduated with a major in zoology. She then received her MS degree from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in Occupational Therapy. Since that time she has lived in central North Carolina.

Teepa is a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association, has received local, statewide, and national recognition for her expertise in geriatrics, dementia care and programming, and staff training. She has developed two training videos, published many articles, and presents locally, regionally, and nationally on a variety of topics and to a wide variety of audiences. For the past 4 years she has presented over 350

programs each year. She has received awards for her clinical and teaching skills from a wide variety of organizations.

**Target Audience:**

Nurses, Social Workers, OT's, PT's, OT Assistants, PT Assistants, LTC Administrators, other interested healthcare providers, caregivers.

**Date:**

Friday, February 19, 2010

**Time:**

8:30-9:00am-Check-in and Coffee

9:00-4:30pm-Program

**Location:**

McLeod Family Medicine Center

Classrooms A & B

Florence, SC

**Fee:**

\$60.00

**\$70.00-if registration and payment are received after February 12, 2010**

**Credit:**

6.0 AHEC Clock Hours

6.0 Nursing Contact Hours

6.0 Non-Social Work Hours

6.0 Hours-Counselors and Therapists

7.2 Hours-for Physical Therapists and Physical Therapy Assistants

7.2 Hours-for Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants

6.0 Hours-Long Term Care Administrators (applied for)

This program is approved for **0.6 CEU's (6.0 clock hours)** by Pee Dee AHEC and meets S.C.AHEC Best Practice Standards. Participants must attend 90% of the program in order to receive a certificate of attendance. No partial credit will be given.

**Nurses:**

"Pee Dee Area Health Education Center is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the South Carolina Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation."

This nursing continuing education activity awards 6.0 contact hours upon successful completion.

"CE approval refers only to CE activities and does not imply SCNA or Pee Dee AHEC endorsement of any commercial product."

**Social Workers:** This program is approved for a total of **6.0 non-social work hours of credit**. The South Carolina AHEC system is an approved provider of continuing education by the South Carolina Board of Social Work Examiners.

**Counselors and Therapists:** This program is approved for **6.0 hours of continuing education credit**. The South Carolina AHEC system is recognized as a permanent sponsor of continuing education by the South Carolina Board of Examiners of Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Psycho-Educational Specialists. {Provider number is #65}

**Occupational Therapists:** This program is approved for **7.2 hours of continuing education**. The South Carolina AHEC system holds presumptive approval as a provider of continuing education for occupational therapists by the South Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy.

**Physical Therapists:** This program is approved for 7.2 hours of continuing education credit. The South Carolina AHEC system is recognized as an approved provider of continuing education by the South Carolina Board of Physical Therapy.

