

NYU BOLD PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



About Dementia Care Aware

Dementia Care Aware (DCA) is a statewide initiative led by the University of California, San Francisco, in collaboration with the California Department of Health Care Services. The program provides tools, training, and resources to integrate cognitive screening into primary care, with a focus on underserved populations. Learn more at DementiaCareAware.org

Key Accomplishments

- Developed the cognitive health assessment (CHA) a standardized 5–10-minute screening designed for patients 65+, and associated training as part of California Senate Bill SB 48
- Since launching in July 2022, DCA has trained over 5,600 healthcare professionals in conducting CHA.
- Introduction of Medi-Cal billing code (1494F) to support providers conducting CHA for Medi-Cal beneficiaries.
- Developed a suite of educational resources, including six additional online courses, bi-monthly webinars and podcasts, a clinical implementation guide, and a provider warmline.

**FREE Dementia Care Training
for Primary Care Providers!**

Free CE and CME

SIGN UP TODAY!

www.DementiaCareAware.org

Live and Virtual

Sign Up and Participate!

**Primary Care
Providers**

- An Overview of Dementia
- A Review of Screening Tools in the CHA
- Conduct a CHA
- Team-based Implementation Strategies
- Free CE and CME

GET TRAINED www.DementiaCareAware.org

Dementia Care Aware and its work to date

Dementia Care Aware (DCA), a program launched by the University of California, San Francisco in partnership with the California Department of Health Care Services (Medi-Cal) aims to enhance early detection of dementia and dementia care in primary care settings statewide. DCA provides tools, training, and support to ensure high-quality dementia screenings and care, with a particular focus on underserved and low-income Californians.

Since its official launch in July 2022, as part of the implementation of California Senate Bill SB 48, DCA has sought to integrate dementia screening into standard primary care practices. The program developed a screening approach known as the cognitive health assessment (CHA) as standard annual screening for patients 65+. The CHA is a brief 5-10-minute screening that helps identify early signs of dementia, empowering primary care teams to offer timely diagnoses, comprehensive care, and early intervention. This approach can be used whenever a cognitive assessment is indicated such as a Medicare Annual Wellness visit.

To further support this initiative, a Medi-Cal billing code, 1494F, was introduced for the completion of CHA for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, with providers required to complete DCA's CHA training to use this code.

As of September 2024, DCA has trained over 5,600 healthcare professionals on the CHA and offers an extensive suite of educational resources, including eight online courses, webinars and podcasts, a clinical implementation guide, and a warmline for healthcare professionals.

Why This Work Matters

With dementia specialist wait times in California expected to exceed three years by 2050, DCA is equipping primary care teams with the skills and resources needed to detect cognitive impairment earlier and provide comprehensive care. This effort is particularly crucial for low-income and underserved communities, ensuring equitable access to dementia care.

Where else can people look to find out more about all the great work that you're doing?

Visit our website: DementiaCareAware.org

Watch one of our videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RatY-cDDxGI>

Looking Ahead

With continued support from West Health and the Archstone Foundation, DCA aims to train 2,000 additional healthcare professionals annually and expand clinical implementation resources. By strengthening partnerships and integrating cognitive screening into more healthcare settings, DCA is driving lasting improvements in dementia care across California.

Thank you so much for your time and for all the great work that you do!