

Niagara Hospice Nurse Keri Collins Earns National Dementia Care Certifications

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Keri Collins, R.N., a nurse at Niagara Hospice since 2009, has earned two nationally recognized dementia care certifications, Certified Dementia Practitioner (CDP) and Certified Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Trainer (CADDCT) from the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP.org).

The CDP certification demonstrates that Collins has received comprehensive knowledge in dementia care and commits to ongoing education about all new developments that pertain to dementia. The CADDCT signifies that she is qualified to train other clinical staff to attain their CDP designation to improve their

dementia care and support service abilities.

With these certifications, Collins is leading Niagara Hospice's expanded Alzheimer's disease and related dementia care and family support program to ensure the highest level of specialized care for each individual. As the amount of dementia referrals to hospice care continues to increase in Niagara County, the dedicated dementia team at Niagara Hospice is using additional cognitive screening and assessment tools to identify the proper diagnosis and appropriate care plan for each patient.

"Earning these certifications was a tremendous career opportunity to expand my leadership capabilities as we continue to innovate the dementia care and support services for Niagara Hospice patients and families," said Collins. "I learned many non-medical care options and behavioral intervention techniques that will elevate our ability to respond to the many different symptoms and challenges that dementia patients face in their daily lives. Our goal is to admit these patients sooner to improve their quality of life."

Collins is the only hospice nurse in Western New York with these certifications and Niagara Hospice is the only hospice organization west of Syracuse to attain both national accreditations.

Collins, a resident of Newfane, earned an Associate in Applied Science degree in nursing from Niagara County Community College.

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