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# RVNA staff all certified dementia practitioners

By The Ridgefield Press on August 10, 2015 in Latest News, People · 0 Comments

### About author



The Ridgefield Press

The Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association has announced that each member of its professional staff is now a certified dementia practitioner.

That means each person has fulfilled the requirements set by the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners to earn the certified dementia practitioner credential.

RVNA President and CEO Theresa Santoro said, "The process of training all of our professional staff was long, arduous, and expensive, but it was an important investment to make. Here at RVNA we continually strive to provide the highest quality of care to all of our patients, and this training is an important part of that because of the increasing prevalence of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia in our country."

According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, dementia is an umbrella term for a group of cognitive disorders typically characterized by memory impairment and disturbance of the ability to plan, organize and abstract. It is generally an illness of older adults. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia. Starting at age 65, the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease doubles every five years. By age 85 years and older, between 25 and 50% of people will exhibit signs of Alzheimer's. Up to 5.3 million Americans currently have Alzheimer's disease. As the U.S. population lives longer, dementia will become more prevalent.

All professional staff at RVNA attended full-day NCCDP training course on a weekend day, learning about all aspects of dementia and Alzheimer's. RVNA Vice President of Clinical Operations Natalie Farrar, MSN, RN, completed the NCCDP training program and requirements, and is now a certified Alzheimer's disease and dementia care trainer. She then trained the RVNA staff more than five weekend days in the first half of 2015.

According to Farrar, "RVNA is now providing the most specialized and highest quality of care to those with Alzheimer's and other dementia. It is a privilege to work in an organization that has such strong commitment from its CEO and board of directors to ensure and recognize the competence of its staff in caring for RVNA's Alzheimer's and dementia patients."

Across the U.S., state regulations vary widely on topic of Alzheimer's disease and dementia education, the NCCDP says. Connecticut's regulation for home health care agencies, such as RVNA, stipulates training and education on

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Alzheimer's disease and dementia symptoms and care for all staff providing direct care but doesn't specify how much.

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