

The Dementia Caregiver's Toolbox

Tips, news bites, product reviews, and people in the news for professional and family caregivers who want to keep up with the world of dementia care. This is a companion blog to www.dementiatoolbox.com, a product line which provides education to caregivers while supporting dementia and caregiving causes worldwide.

August 28, 2007

Dementia Certification Revisited

Since I wrote about the topic of **dementia or Alzheimer's certification** a while back, I received two emails I wanted to tell you about. I bring this issue up again because it seems to be something that is often confusing to those attending dementia classes.

The first email was from Sandra Stimson, the Executive Director of the **National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners**, who wrote to be sure that I was aware of all the **benefits** of achieving certification with the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. As I mentioned in the last post on this topic, you should investigate any certification process thoroughly to be sure it meets your needs. Check out the benefits of the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners and for that matter, the entire website where you can see some of their partners and other information.

I also received an email recently from Donna Surges Tatum, President of **Meaningful Measurement**. This organization designs testing and certification for organizations. Donna mentioned that she decided to tackle the area of Alzheimer's Disease and dementia because she knew of no testing process so she formed the **National Certification Board for Alzheimer's Care**. She actually contracts with Pearson to conduct the computer-based testing for two credentials: Certified Alzheimer's Caregiver (CAC) and Certified Alzheimer's Educator. Testing should be up and running soon so look into whether this type of certification works for you by reading their **recent press release**.

This is no right or wrong answer when it comes to certification. Explore the options and make the choice that works best for you. Please share your thoughts or further information on this issue.

Posted at 09:27 PM in [General dementia information](#) | [Permalink](#)

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Congratulations on your recent award! Caregivers everywhere need all the supportive tools we can give them - so kudos!

RE: certification programs, my concern is that testing and cert programs may simply add a layer of expense that isn't necessary. Finding a good training program is the most important part; what you get out of the program - a certificate or simply a completion letter - is less important than what you get out of the program in terms of new skills and tools to use in your own personal toolbox. I'd simply echo your comments to know who is instructing, learn about their experience and knowledge, and then find a solution that fits into your budget. It would be a travesty for people to avoid

12/9/2010

The Dementia Caregiver's Toolbox : De...

good programs because they were too costly.

Best wishes - keep up the good work.

Sharon Brothers,

Institute for Senior Living Education, www.aquiretraining.com and www.EasyCEU.com

Posted by: [Sharon K. Brothers](#) | [August 30, 2007 at 05:00 PM](#)



Sharon: Thanks for your thoughts. Since certification within dementia care is relatively new, I find that students have so many questions about it. I will continue to direct people to the actual sites and encourage them to ask the key questions to be sure that it fits for their needs. Thanks again for writing.

Sue

Posted by: [Sue Lanza](#) | [August 31, 2007 at 06:47 AM](#)



National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners announces for the third year, NCCDP Alzheimer's and Dementia Staff Education Week Feb 14-21. Beginning Nov educators may download for free till March 1, free in-services that include power point, pre test, post test, answers, hand outs and a huge tool kit. see www.nccdp.org

Posted by: [Sandra Stimson](#) | [November 19, 2010 at 11:47 AM](#)

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