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# LPN Certification for Alzheimer's

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Nurses with advanced certifications are in high demand due to the increasing number of Alzheimer's patients.

About 76 percent of licensed practical nurses (LPNs) care for patients with dementia, according to a survey by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). And with the number of people with Alzheimer's growing each year, having advanced certifications can be an important mark of distinction among LPNs. Several organizations offer advanced certifications for Alzheimer's patients.

## Basics of Certification

Most [certification \(#\)](#) courses provide at least eight hours of training, giving a comprehensive overview of how to communicate with and care for individuals with Alzheimer's. Training typically covers topics in dementia, depression, repetitive behaviors, paranoia, hallucinations, wandering, hoarding, bathing, dressing, toileting, nutrition, ethics, staff support, family support, care planning, pet and animal management, spiritual care, and end of life issues.

## National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners

The National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners offers four [certifications \(#\)](#) for those with Alzheimer's, including the Certified Dementia Practitioner, which requires extensive special training; the Certified Dementia Care Manager, which equips nurses for managing a unit with patients who are cognitively impaired; the Responder Dementia Trainer, which is best for emergency room nurses who may be called to care for dementia patients; and the NCCDP Alzheimer's Dementia Trainer, which prepares nurses to train others in the care of these patients.

# National Certification Board for Alzheimer

The National Certification Board for Alzheimer's Care grants the Certified Alzheimer's Caregiver designation. The Caregiver certification is for those who are in direct care of people with Alzheimer's, applying their training in care facilities. The Educator certification is to train the trainers and equate care facility for Alzheimer's patients.

## Prerequisites

Most accredited certification institutions require that nurses who want this training have [work experience](#) that nurses have some management experience, and all require that licensure be up to date [\(http://www.nccna.org\)](#).

## Reasons to Certify

Certification is a symbol of excellence and a quality indicator. It helps nurses prove they've been able to work almost anywhere. Moreover, with the growing Alzheimer's population, it is a mark of an indicator of a commitment to continuing education, nurses who get additional certification have career advancement.

## References

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- National Certification Board for Alzheimer's Care: Candidate Handbook
- Department of Labor: Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing: Spring 2001 Practice and Professional Issues (http://www.ncsbn.org)

## Resources

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- National Institute on Aging: Alzheimer's Disease Fact Sheet
- National Institute on Aging: Alzheimer's Training Materials

## Who Can Help

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- Advance your nursing credentials with a bachelor's or master's degree from University of Phoenix
- The world needs talent. Your talent. Kaplan University offers more than 125 degrees and programs

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