

### certified dementia practitioner

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# Dementia Practitioner Certifications for Caregivers: Promoting a Standard of Excellence (https://lifetimewellness.us/dementia-certifying-practitioners-for-better-patient-care/)

Today, more than five million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (https://aspe.hhs.gov/what-alzheimers-disease-and-related-dementias) (ADRD). By 2050, this number is projected to nearly triple (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/02/06/alzheimers-dementia-epidemic-numbers-to-triple/1881151/). In the wake of an ADRD epidemic, the need for specialized training and support for caregivers is critical to ensure highly proficient and sensitive direct care to this growing population.

standards of excellence in ADRD education. Called the **National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (https://www.nccdp.org/)** (NCCDP), this group offers a **Certified Dementia Practitioner (CDP) (https://www.nccdp.org/cdp.htm)** program to professionals and other caregivers who provide services to ADRD clients.

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It's been called "The Long Goodbye." **Alzheimer's disease and related dementias** (https://stonegatesl.com/empowerment-taking-a-new-approach-to-dementia-part-1-confronting-the-challenges/) (ADRD) cause memory decline, cognitive impairment, and eventual loss of daily functioning. Today, 5.7 million Americans are living with the disease – with numbers projected to more than double by 2050.

Of those living with ADRD, **90 percent (https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/about-us/policy-and-influencing/what-we-think/antipsychotic-drugs)** struggle with behavioral and psychological symptoms, from agitation and aggression to psychosis. These symptoms can be devastating for the person with ADRD and challenging for those who provide care – family members and health care staff alike.

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