

Certified Dementia Care Specialist (CDCS) Certification Standards

1.0 Professional Standards

Certified Dementia Care Specialist (CDCS) Certification is designed for professionals who provide care to patients and clients diagnosed with dementia and have specialized training in the care of these patients. Common professionals who apply for CDCS Certification include:

- Credentialed Health Care Professionals such as Certified Nursing Assistants, Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians and Physician Assistants
- Licensed Rehabilitation Professionals such as Occupational Therapists/Occupational Therapy Assistants, Physical Therapists/Physical Therapist Assistants, Speech Language Pathologists
- Licensed Behavioral Health Professionals such as Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists, Psychologists and Counselors
- Other Credentialed Professionals such as Case Managers, Personal Care Assistants, Home Care Providers, Admissions Directors, Administrators

2.0 Educational Standards

2.1 The candidate must meet the following education criteria (total minimum of 6 clock hours at a post-graduate level):

- An understanding of dementia types, cognitive differences and prognosis for:
 - Alzheimer's Type Dementia
 - Vascular Type Dementia
 - Lewy Body Dementia
 - Frontotemporal Dementia
 - Parkinson's Dementia
 - Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus
- An understanding of the stages of dementia
- Ability to differentiate between mild cognitive impairment, dementia and normal aging
- Ability to provide a synopsis of the cognitive assessment tools used to identify dementia in early and late stages
- An understanding of behavioral interventions that address:
 - Sun downing, combativeness and aggression
 - Wandering, paranoia, hallucinations and delusions
 - Depression, anxiety and repetitive behaviors
 - Intimacy and sexuality
 - Personal hygiene and ADL's
- Ability to effectively provide psychoeducation to patients, family and/or caregivers
- An understanding of communication strategies that encourage compliance and therapy participation, including non-verbal communication strategies and strategies to avoid arguments
- A general understanding of psychopharmacology and nutrition as it relates to dementia
- An understanding ethical and cultural issues related to dementia, including end of life considerations, abuse reporting and community resources

2.2 Examples of Educational sources include but are not limited to:

- Post-Graduate level coursework from an accredited college or university as documented by a copy of the course syllabus and a transcript showing completion of the course
- Approved Continuing Education as documented by certificates of completion from training organization

3.0 Required Documentation for Certification Eligibility

1. Copies of completion of training as outline in the Educational Standards
2. Payment of certification application fee

Evergreen Certifications, LLC will certify candidates who meet the above requirements.

Please note: Certification does not imply endorsement of clinical competency. As a professional, you are responsible for reviewing the scope of practice, including activities that are defined in law as beyond the boundaries of practice in accordance with and in compliance with your profession's standards.

4.0 Required Documentation for Renewal of Certification

To maintain Certification, a reapplication is required. The steps to re-apply for a 1-year reapplication are as follows:

1. Submit, via email, a copy of your completion certificate for six (6) clock hours of post-graduate level, Alzheimer's and/or dementia care-focused training to info@agingcert.com
2. Payment of re-certification application fee

You can also apply for reapplication for 2 or 3 years. Follow the process above, submitting twelve (12) clock hours of training for a 2-year reapplication, and eighteen (18) clock hours of training for a 3-year application.

Re-certification training hours need to have been taken in the time since you were last certified or recertified