



Certified Geriatric Care Professional (CGCP) Certification Standards

1.0 Professional Standards

1.1 To be eligible for Certification, the applicant must hold a State or National license as listed below, with all training hours and supervision requirements completed to be licensed for independent practice in the state they are licensed in (or equivalent if practicing outside of the United States):

- Occupational Therapist (OT)
- Physical Therapist (PT)
- Speech Language Pathologist (SLP)
- Respiratory Therapist (RRT)
- Registered Nurse (RN)
- Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Physician Assistant/Associate (PA)
- Physician (MD or DO)

Don't see your profession listed here or are you a graduate student in an allied health or healthcare program?

You may qualify for Certification as a **Certified Geriatric Care Informed Professional!** [Click here](#) to learn more.

Canadian Applicants: Professionals who have met the registration requirements for Provincial and Territorial Regulatory Bodies are welcome to apply. If you are unsure whether your professional background meets the standards for Certification, please email us a copy of your educational background and CV to info@evergreencertifications.com

International Applicants: Please check for a link to standards specific to your country of practice. If no link is available, please email us a copy of your educational background and CV to info@evergreencertifications.com

1.2 By applying for Certification, the applicant agrees to adhere to Evergreen Certifications' Professional Code of Ethics, available at www.evergreencertifications.com/codeofethics

2.0 Educational Standards

2.1 The applicant must meet the following education criteria (total minimum of 18 hours of continuing education):

Core Geriatric Care Educational Competency Areas:

Assessment – utilize appropriate assessments within scope of practice

Pharmacology – basic knowledge of drug interactions (including over the counter medications), high risk medications per BEERS criteria, and high risk drug-disease interactions

Pain Management – impact of pain on aging and approved pharmacological and nonpharmacological interventions for pain management

Fall Prevention – utilize the CDC's STEADI Algorithm to assess and screen for fall risk

Cognitive Decline – understand physiology of aging, recognize symptoms of dementia and Alzheimer's Disease, distinguish between depression vs. dementia symptoms

Psycho-Social Wellbeing – awareness of depression, assess relationship/family dynamics, financial concerns, role of caregivers

Behaviors – managing eating and nutrition issues, sleep and insomnia issues, aggression, wandering

Patient Empowerment – within scope of practice, assess and educate patients on: community resources, home health hazards, vestibular awareness, living independently, safety concerns, nutrition, sleep issues

Documentation – understand federal regulations and requirements as related to professional scope of practice

Legal Issues – advanced care planning (including considerations for Power of Attorney and DNR orders), awareness of types and symptoms of elder abuse/neglect, knowledge of reporting regulations by your profession

Transition of Care – how to communicate with and support family, understand care differences between an assisted living facility and long-term care facility to help families select the most appropriate choice, and assist in decision-making within scope of practice

End of Life Care – understand palliative and hospice care

Ethnogeriatrics – awareness of unique healthcare needs for diverse ethnic backgrounds

2.2 Suitable education sources are approved continuing education as documented by certificates of completion from the accredited training organization.

Evergreen Certifications will accept courses that have been completed within 3 years of initial application for Certification.

3.0 Clinical Practice Requirements

The applicant must attest that he/she has spent a minimum of four (4) years working primarily with geriatric patients/clients.

4.0 Certification Application Process

1. Submit the following documents:
 - a. Copies of completion of training as outlined in the Educational Standards
 - b. Copy of the candidate's professional license
 - c. A signed application form with attestation that the candidate has met all the requirements as detailed herein
2. Payment of certification application fee

Evergreen Certifications will certify applicants 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.

5.0 Renewal of Certification

To maintain Certification, a renewal is required. The steps to apply for a 2-year renewal are as follows:

1. Submit the following documents:
 - a. Copy of the candidate's professional license
 - b. Completion certificate for twelve (12) clock hours of continuing education related to geriatric care
2. Payment of renewal fee

Re-certification training hours need to have been taken in the time since you were last certified or renewed. Renewals are calculated from the date that your Certification was issued.

If you allow your Certification to lapse for more than 2 years from your Certification end date, you are no longer eligible to renew your Certification and instead can reapply for Certification.