



## Evergreen Certified Dementia Care Specialist (ECDCS) Certification Standards

### 1.0 Professional Standards

1.1 Evergreen Certified Dementia Care Specialist (ECDCS) Certification is designed for licensed or credentialed 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 ECDCS Certification include:

- Health Care Professionals such as Certified Nursing Assistants, Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians and Physician Assistants
- Rehabilitation Professionals such as Occupational Therapists/Occupational Therapy Assistants, Physical Therapists/Physical Therapist Assistants, Speech Language Pathologists
- 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

1.2 By applying for certification, the applicant agrees to adhere to [Evergreen Certifications' Professional Code of Ethics](#)

### 2.0 Educational Standards

2.1 The candidate must complete the following education criteria (total minimum of 6 clock hours of continuing education):

- **Forms of Dementia:** understand the various types, the cognitive differences and prognosis amongst them
- **Progression:** understand the stages of dementia and how it progresses from one to the next
- **Cognitive Assessment:** ability to differentiate between mild cognitive impairment, dementia, and normal aging, understand how to employ cognitive assessment tools to identify dementia in early and late stages
- **Treatment:** understand behavioral interventions that address common problem behaviors (including but not limited to: sun downing aggression, hallucinations, hygiene, intimacy, anxiety, repetitive and depressive behaviors, etc.), nutrition and medication management.
- **Support:** able to provide psychoeducation to patients, family and/or caregivers.
- **Communication strategies:** able to employ communication strategies that encourage compliance and therapy participation, including non-verbal communication strategies and strategies to avoid arguments
- **Ethics:** understand ethical and cultural issues related to dementia, including end of life considerations, abuse reporting and community resources

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 Certification Application Process

1. Submit the following documents:
  - a. Copies of completion of training as outline in the Educational Standards
  - b. A copy of the candidate's professional license

## 2. Payment of certification application fee

Evergreen Certifications 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 Renewal of Certification**

To maintain certification, a renewal is required. The steps to apply for a 1-year renewal are as follows:

1. Submit the following documents:
  - a. A copy of the candidate's professional license
  - b. Completion certificate for six (6) clock hours of Alzheimer's and/or dementia care-focused continuing education
2. Payment of renewal fee

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

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

*If you allow your certification to lapse for more than 3 years, you are no longer eligible to renew your certification and instead can reapply for certification.*