

An elderly couple is shown in a close embrace on a light-colored sofa. The man, on the left, has a mustache and is wearing a dark red sweater. The woman, on the right, has short white hair and is wearing a black and white striped top. They are both smiling gently and looking down. The background is a blurred interior space with a bookshelf.

Pillar 2
Build Capacity

Pillar 2: Build Capacity

This pillar reviews education and training plans to help ensure that all staff have the knowledge and tools to successfully provide quality dementia care.

Action Steps

- 1 Create your Education and Training Plan

Documents you'll need to complete pillar 2	Supplementary resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Cognitive Health Assessment: The Basic Training</u> • <u>The Cognitive Health Assessment</u> • <u>Project Plan Workbook for Cognitive Health Screening</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Dementia Care Aware eLearning Course Catalog</u> • <u>Tips to Adjust the Cognitive Health Assessment for Diverse Populations</u> • <u>The Cognitive Health Assessment for Team Members</u> • <u>Next Steps After a Positive Screen</u> • <u>Telehealth and the Cognitive Health Assessment (CHA)</u> • <u>Advanced Care Planning [video]</u> • <u>Assessing and Connecting with the Care Partner [video]</u> • <u>Dementia Mini-Course Flyer</u> • <u>The Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO® Program for Health Systems and Medical Professionals</u> • <u>Adapting "CHA: The Basics" Training to Reach Learners Across California - Led by University of California, Irvine</u>

PART 1:

Education and Training

Cognitive screening is not a new concept, and many primary care settings have protocols and processes in place to address cognitive concerns. However, training and education are key tools for introducing new findings, reinforcing previous learning, and bringing all staff into alignment with the purpose and goals of cognitive health. Dementia Care Aware offers training on an approach called the Cognitive Health Assessment (CHA) as well as supplemental courses, webinars, and podcasts for those wanting to go deeper into specific topics.

The [Cognitive Health Assessment Training](#) course teaches a standardized protocol for cognitive screening that can be adjusted to meet the specific needs of each patient. It can be used as an annual approach to cognitive screening, including within the Medicare annual wellness visit or at any time as the start of a comprehensive evaluation for someone with signs or symptoms of dementia.

The assessment is free and includes instruments validated in primary care that are easy to score and available in multiple languages. The course is offered as an online self-paced course or live virtual training.

Learners that complete the training will:

- 1 Learn about dementia and screening tools for dementia.
- 2 Gain confidence in screening for dementia in older adult patients in a primary care setting through examples of real-world implementation of the cognitive health assessment.
- 3 Know how to start a brain health plan in collaboration with their patient.
- 4 Qualify and learn how to bill for the assessment for patients with Medi-Cal only coverage using CPT code 1494F and other payers.

[Click here to sign up for the Cognitive Health Assessment training.](#)

[Click here for additional courses, webinars, and podcasts to learn more about dementia care.](#)

Case Study



Meeting the Needs of Busy Clinicians

[This case study](#) describes the development and dissemination of in-person and virtual training led by University of California Irvine, to expand the reach and number of medical professionals trained in the Cognitive Health Assessment (CHA).

Additional Dementia Care Training

The following resources are recommended for continuing education beyond the initial CHA the basics course. Click on the resources below to learn more.

[Tips for Adapting the Cognitive Health Assessment for Diverse Populations –](#)

Recommended for clinics with diverse patient populations (i.e., language discordance, physical disabilities, substance use, unstable living situation, or learning challenges).

[The Cognitive Health Assessment for Team Members –](#) Recommended for clinics that want to learn how to include team members (i.e., nurses, medical assistants) in the cognitive assessment process.

[Next Steps After a Positive Screen –](#) Recommended to understand best practices for getting from a positive screen to a diagnosis and ongoing care planning.

[Telehealth and the Cognitive Health Assessment \(CHA\) –](#) Recommended for clinics that serve patients who may have difficulty getting to your clinic.

[Advance Care Planning –](#) Recommended for all clinics serving older adults to learn about the purpose of advance care planning and common kinds of legal decision support.

[Assessing and Connecting with the Care Partner –](#) Recommended for learning basic strategies to support care partners.

Dementia Mini-Course – Recommended for clinics wanting a comprehensive dementia course. Topics include the spectrum of cognitive dysfunction, behavioral treatment of complications, managing common co-morbidities, effective caregiver support programs, and more.

The Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO® Program for Health Systems and Medical Professionals - webpage that provides information about how the Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO® Program works and how to participate.

Use this checklist to create your education and training plan, then add identified action items to your [project plan](#):

- Identify who in your organization will schedule and manage the training.
- Establish when/where will the training take place (e.g., in zoom at a Monday staff meeting, ad hoc lunch and learn etc.).
- Determine who will conduct the training.
- Identify special circumstances related to the population your organization serves or other organization specific concerns that need to be addressed in the training (i.e., language discordance, cultural appropriateness, etc.).
- Determine how the organization will keep track of who has completed training including ensuring all new staff complete a training upon onboarding.
- Develop a plan for continuing education beyond the initial CHA the basics course.