RURAL INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

TRAINING PROGRAM (RITT)



Program Goals

The overarching goals of the workshop are to increase provider and staff knowledge and skills in geriatrics and to provide the tools for sustained team-based approaches for quality care for older Veterans. Topics include:

* Benefits of interprofessional healthcare teams
* Discussion of three common geriatric syndromes
* Identifying team-based solutions to care
* Overview and demonstration of cognitive screening tools
* Assistance in developing a team-based action plan for clinical practice change

About the Training

Participants receive a curriculum binder and a toolkit containing educational and clinical resources including pocket cards, articles, interactive booklets, and DVDs. RITT is accredited by the VA Employee Education System (EES) for 6.5 Continuing Education credits. A shorter version of the workshop is accredited for 3.5 hours of Continuing Education credits.

The training meets a demand for enhanced geriatric knowledge and skills in the rural primary care setting where there is an acute shortage of geriatrics specialists. In fact, there is just one geriatrician for each 10,000 older rural persons, with similar shortages of geriatrics specialists in fields such as nursing, social work, and psychology.

After participating in RITT, providers and staff report sustained change in selected clinic practices, including monitoring for geriatrics red flags, enhancing active listening skills, and screening for fall risks. A program evaluation found significant changes before and after the workshop on team measures such as communication, cohesion, and clarification of team goals.

Since its inception in 2011, the RITT program has conducted trainings at 123 clinics throughout the United States. There have been workshops in 37 of the 50 states, and all 18 VISNs. RITT has trained over 1915 participants in the past eight years.

More Information about RITT Program

RITT trainings are open to VA and non-VA employees at VA facilities that primarily serve rural Veterans. The RITT program is accredited by VA Employee Education Service (EES) for Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Psychology, Dietetics, Social Work and PT/OT.

Scheduling a RITT Workshop

If you are interested in hosting a training in Fiscal Year 2019 or need more information about the RITT program, please contact:

**Please visit our affiliated virtual learning community** [**www.gerischolars.org**](http://www.gerischolars.org) **for additional training opportunities!**

**Eve Gottesman, BS**  
Tel: 718-584-9000 x3813  
[Eve.Gottesman@va.gov](mailto:Eve.Gottesman@va.gov)