

# RURAL INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM TRAINING PROGRAM (RITT)

**Ask about our new RITT workshop for HBPC Teams!**

## 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
- Identification of geriatric “red flags” that require immediate attention when recognized
- Discussion about three common geriatric syndromes
- Overview and demonstration of cognitive screening tools



## About the Training

Participants receive a curriculum binder and a toolkit containing educational and clinical resources including pocket cards, articles, interactive booklets, DVDs and online resources. RITT is accredited by the VA Employee Education System (EES) for 3.75 hours of Continuing Education credits.

The training meets a demand for enhanced geriatrics 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 trained healthcare professionals from over 175 VA hospitals and clinics throughout the United States. There have been workshops in 38 of the 50 states, and all 18 VISNs. RITT has trained over 2500 participants in the past eleven years.

## More Information about RITT Program

RITT workshops are open to VA and other affiliated VA employees (such as contracted HBPC employees or staff from contracted Home Health Agencies) that primarily serve rural Veterans. The RITT program is accredited by EES for Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Psychology, Dietetics, Social Work and OT.

## Scheduling a RITT Workshop

If you are interested in hosting a training in Fiscal Year 2023 or need more information about the RITT program, please contact:

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