

RURAL INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM TRAINING PROGRAM (RITT)

Geriatrics education for your team!

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

Virtual half-day workshop at no cost to host site. Workshop is appropriate for CBOCs, HBPC teams, CLC teams and HUD-VASH teams. RITT is accredited by the VHA Institute for Learning, Education and Development (ILEAD) for 3.75 hours of continuing education credit for the half-day workshop.

The training meets a demand for enhanced geriatrics knowledge and skills in rural primary care settings 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.

Participants receive a variety of materials, containing educational and clinical resources, pocket cards, articles, interactive booklets, DVDs and are given access to online resources. 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 40 of the 50 states, and all 18 VISNs. RITT has trained over 2500 participants.

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 ILEAD 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 2024 or need more information about the RITT program, please contact:

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Please visit our affiliated virtual learning community www.gerischolars.org for additional training opportunities!