

# RURAL INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM TRAINING PROGRAM (RITT)

**Due to COVID-19, RITT is being offered virtually in FY21!  
The training is accredited for 3.75 hours of CMEs/CEUs!**

## 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 2025 participants in the past nine 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 PT/OT.

## Scheduling a RITT Workshop

If you are interested in hosting a training in Fiscal Year 2021 or need more information about the RITT program, please contact:

**Eve Gottesman, MBA** OR **Eugenia Dorisca, BS**  
Tel: 718-584-9000 x3813 Tel: 718-584-9000 x3836  
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**Please visit our affiliated virtual learning community [www.gerischolars.org](http://www.gerischolars.org) for additional training opportunities!**

## Why participate in RITT?

- **Demographic Need:** Almost 50% of Veterans are aged 65+ and this group accounts for over half of all primary care visits annually. It is important that healthcare providers and staff be equipped to meet the needs of rural older Veterans.
- **Practice Outcomes:** Now entering its 11th year, past participants report changes in their practice as a result of the RITT workshop which include:
  - Monitoring and assessing for red flags and geriatric syndromes
  - Greater confidence in communicating with team members that an older Veteran is at immediate risk
- **Advantageous:** On-site, half and full day training options at no cost to Community Based Outpatient Clinics, VA Medical Centers or IHS/Tribal Clinics.

## Coordinating Site

VISN 2 GRECC  
James J. Peters VAMC  
130 West Kingsbridge Road  
Bronx, NY 10468

Judith L. Howe, PhD, RITT Project Director

Funded by:  
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VHA | OFFICE OF  
RURAL  
HEALTH



For more information about  
the Rural Interdisciplinary  
Team Training Program,  
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## Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training



A Component of the  
VA Geriatric  
Scholars Program  
Hubsite: GRECC, Greater Los  
Angeles VA Health Care System

B. Josea Kramer, PhD, Director

**Now Available  
Online!**

**See inside for  
more info!**

## Program Details

**Participants:** All members of a rural clinic team—physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, social workers, pharmacists, occupational and physical therapists, dietitians, program support assistants, and other professional and paraprofessional and administrative staff.

RITT is co-facilitated by a clinician and an educator who are part of the GRECC network.

Workshop learning methods include:

- Case Studies
- Mini-lectures
- Guided Discussions
- Interactive Videos
- Brainstorming
- Role Plays

## Goals

- ◇ Educate primary care providers and staff about common geriatric conditions
- ◇ Increase geriatrics team-based expertise in rural clinics
- ◇ Incorporate team-based geriatrics knowledge and skills into clinic providers' and staff practice
- ◇ Strengthen HBPC team knowledge about keeping older Veterans safe at home

**Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the RITT workshop will be held online during FY21. This virtual training is accredited for 3.75 hours of CEUs/CMEs.**

RITT is accredited by the VA Employee Education System for 3.75 CEU/CME credits for:

Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Psychology, Social Work, Dietetics and PT/OT

## Topics

- Managing team dynamics & team-based care for older Veterans
- Identifying geriatrics “Red Flags” that require immediate attention when recognized
- Geriatrics syndromes: How are older patients different from all other patients and why does it matter?
- Understanding vision changes, fall prevention, and delirium
- Dementia, ADLs/IADLS and depression screening
- Resources in geriatrics for primary care providers

**If you are interested in coordinating a virtual RITT workshop for your clinic during FY21 contact:**

**[Eve.Gottesman@va.gov](mailto:Eve.Gottesman@va.gov) or [Eugenia.Dorisca@va.gov](mailto:Eugenia.Dorisca@va.gov)**