

BACKGROUND

The Geriatric Scholars Program is designed to educate healthcare providers working in rural VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) to manage the care of medically complex geriatric patients.

The Program includes intensive educational courses, on-going coaching and mentoring opportunities, and a choice of self-directed learning activities. The clinical practicum is strongly encouraged and limited to 40 hours of training experience.

The Geriatric Scholars Program has been funded since FY 08 through generous grants from the VA Office of Rural Health.

THE GERIATRIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Hubsite:

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System GRECC

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In collaboration with GRECCs at:

- ◆ Bronx
- ◆ Little Rock
- ◆ Madison
- ◆ New England
- ◆ Palo Alto
- ◆ Saint Louis
- ◆ San Antonio
- ◆ Tennessee Valley

and

The VA Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care

The Geriatric Scholars Program



Educating Healthcare Providers
in Rural VA Community Based
Outpatient Clinics



TARGET AUDIENCE

Healthcare providers working in Rural VA CBOCs

- ✦ Primary Care Providers: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants
- ✦ Clinical Pharmacists
- ✦ Social Workers



THE PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ✦ Develop evidence-based care plans for medically complex older patients
- ✦ Assess and address functional health status
- ✦ Use interdisciplinary care strategies
- ✦ Incorporate VA and community resources in care planning
- ✦ Apply Quality Improvement methods for measurable improvements in care of older Veterans

The Geriatric Scholars Program



EDUCATING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ON
CARE OF OLDER VETERANS

THE PROGRAM

Mandatory Components

- Intensive course in care of older adults
 - ≥30 hours CME/CEU
- Intensive course in Quality Improvement (QI)
 - ≥8 hours CME/CEU
- Initiate local QI Project to improve care for older Veterans

Optional Components

- Distance Education
- Clinical Practicum
- Mentoring (Clinical)
- Coaching (QI)
- Learning Community (Web-based)
- Interdisciplinary Team Training
- Enduring Educational Materials

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Your “hands on” approach to improving care for older Veterans

- Design a feasible local QI project
- Implement the project in your CBOC
- Work with an expert who will coach you through the process
- Apply your QI project toward Systems-based Practice Competencies and licensure



ALUMNI

Benefits:

- + Monthly GRECC Audio Conferences
- + Announcements of learning opportunities
- + Your Share Point Site for Just In Time Learning
 - + Learning community
 - + Education
 - + Access to educational materials
 - + Discussion boards
 - + Templates for clinical decision-making
- + Mentoring or Coaching
 - + Clinical care
 - + QI projects

*For more information contact
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