

Dear Colleague:

June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness month, providing an opportunity to discuss dementia as a major public health issue in Tennessee and around the United States. In Tennessee, there are approximately 120,000 Tennesseans ages 65 and older living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. This number is expected to grow by approximately 16.7% by 2025. In response to the growing number of Tennesseans developing cognitive decline, it is imperative that healthcare providers and other members of the healthcare team are prepared to respond to the needs of these patients and their caregivers.

We invite you to participate in a **free training opportunity** titled, *"Alzheimer's Dementia and Other Related Dementias: An Evidence Based Update on Collaboration, Early Detection, and Cause of Death,"* hosted by University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Tennessee Department of Health, and Tennessee Medical Association. The training consists of six modules, led by subject matter experts, and will cover the following topics:

- Module I: Alzheimer's Disease and Other Related Dementias: Early Detection and Diagnosis
- Module II: Community Care of the Neurodegenerative Dementias
- Module III: Interprofessional and Community Collaboration in ADRD
- Module IV: Death Certificates: Older Adult Death and Accurate Reporting of Alzheimer's Disease
- Module V: CPT® 99483: Cognitive Assessment and Care Plan Services
- Module VI: Addressing Barriers to Care and Health Policy Opportunities

Up to six hours of free continuing medical education (CMEs) will be awarded to providers that participate in the training by July 1, 2021. While we understand the critical role that healthcare providers play in the care of those with dementia and their caregivers, we also encourage other members of the interprofessional team to participate in the training.

To register for the training, visit the following website:

- <https://new.utc.edu/health-education-and-professional-studies/school-of-nursing/gerontology/alzheimers-dementia-other-related-dementias-conference>

TennCare strongly encourages contract providers and their staff to learn more about the importance of early detection and diagnosis, why documentation in the medical record—specifically pertaining to cognitive and functional delays—is key, and how to help patients and their caregivers access care and support.



Our departments continue to work with national, state, and local organizations to promote awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and we hope that you will join us in our efforts.

Thank you for working with us to promote optimal health for all Tennesseans.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Piercey'.

Lisa Piercey, MD, MBA, FAAP
Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Health

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Smith'.

Stephen Smith
Director, Division of TennCare
