The Geriatric Scholars Program

A longitudinal education program to integrate geriatrics into VA primary care Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT)

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

Overview
The Geriatric Scholars Program is designed to educate VA primary care healthcare providers to manage the care of medically complex patients.

The Program includes intensive educational courses, clinical practicum training experiences, ongoing coaching and mentoring opportunities and choices of self-directed learning activities. The clinical practicum is strongly encouraged and limited to 40 hours of training experience. Program alumni are supported with refresher courses and educational programs tailored to individual continuous professional development.

Since its inception in 2008, the Geriatric Scholars Program has been generously funded by VA Program Offices including Rural Health, Patient Care Services, and Strategic Integration.

For more information contact
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Learning Community:
http://vaww.portal.gla.med.va.gov/sites/GRECCNew/scholars/default.aspx
Website:
www.GeriScholars.org
The Geriatric Scholars Program

Target Audience
VA healthcare providers working in Primary Care and Rural CBOCs:
- Primary Care Providers: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants
- Clinical Pharmacists
- Social Workers
- Psychologists (PhD, PsyD, and registered MA level)
- Rehabilitation Therapists (OT, PT)

Learning Objectives
- Incorporate evidence-based approaches to the care of medically complex older patients
- Assess and address functional health status and cognitive impairment
- Use interdisciplinary care strategies
- Incorporate VA and community resources in care planning
- Apply Quality Improvement methods for measurable improvements in care of older Veterans

Core Components
1. Intensive course in care of older adults
   - Primary Care Providers, Pharmacists and Social Workers: ≥30 hours CME/CEU
   - Psychologists, Rehabilitation Therapists: 21 hours CME/CEU
2. Intensive workshop in Quality Improvement (QI)
   - Primary Care Providers, Pharmacists and Social Workers: ≥8 hours CME/CEU
   - Psychologists, Rehabilitation Therapists: 7 hours CEU
3. Initiate local QI project to improve care for older Veterans
   - Participants design and initiate a feasible QI project in their PACT. Coaching, mentoring, and additional resources support the projects.
   - QI projects may be submitted as ORH Promising Practices and disseminated through the annual GEC Leads Conference.
   - Physicians: Apply the QI project towards System-based Practice Competencies and licensure

Optional Components
- Web based Distance Education
- Clinical Practicum
- Mentoring (Clinical)
- Coaching (QI)
- Learning Community (Web-based)
- Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training
- Enduring Educational Materials
- GRECC-CBOC Connection

Alumni Benefits
- Access to additional educational opportunities
  + Refresher intensive courses
  + Webinar trainings
  + Monthly GRECC Audio Conf.
  + Web-based courses & more
- Enduring Educational Materials
- Recognition by the VA Geriatrics and Extended Care Services

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