

CARING FOR OLDER ADULTS & CAREGIVERS AT HOME—COACH IMPACT



The Innovation

COACH is a home-based dementia care program that serves veterans living at home with moderate to severe dementia.

COACH IS DESIGNED TO:

- Improve quality of life for both patients with dementia and their caregivers
- Help veteran to remain living at home for as long as possible
- Alleviate caregiver burden

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Age 65 or older
- Moderate to severe dementia
- Have a caregiver living at home
- Lives within 50-mile radius from a VA medical center

The Challenge

The number of patients with dementia is rapidly growing every year along with the cost to patients, families, and facilities. Dementia causes an emotional, physical, and financial strain among those affected. Without specialty care and targeted resources, the behavioral symptoms experienced by patients with dementia are often inadequately addressed and constitute the main predictor for nursing home placement. Veterans in rural areas have more difficulty accessing specialty care and resources, compared to those in urban areas.

COACH addresses all of these challenges using holistic patient-centered care.



COACH IMPACTS VETERAN PATIENTS WITH DEMENTIA

After 12 months of enrollment into the program, COACH patients:

- Reduced their agitated dementia related behaviors by 14%
- Significantly reduced safety hazard
 - 84% caregivers took over medication management
 - 70% of patients stopped cooking without supervision
 - 83% patients stopped driving
 - 65% of patients had guns removed or secured
- Significantly decreased probability of dying in a facility: 41.4% of COACH patients died at home, over three times higher compared to the general population



COACH IMPROVES OUTCOMES FOR CAREGIVERS

After 12 months of enrollment in the program, caregivers:

- Showed a 34% reduction in their negative reactions to patients' behaviors
- Reported high level of satisfaction with the program with 100% satisfaction scores



VA MEDICAL CENTERS RELY ON COACH TO SUPPORT PATIENTS AT THE RIGHT SIDE OF CARE

COACH addresses critical areas in dementia care, including behavioral symptoms, caregiver stress, safety hazards, dementia related functional concerns, and advance care planning.

The program meets and exceeds the ten national dementia performance measures.

Research indicates that home-based dementia programs, like COACH, reduce adverse health related events such as nursing home placements, ER visits and inpatient admissions.