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Abstract

Introduction: The number of individuals living with dementia and Alzheimer's disease (AD) in the United States is growing annually, and only 40% of individuals are properly diagnosed. Primary care providers should identify individuals who have cognitive impairment and provide options for care; early diagnosis of dementia and AD affords patients and their families the opportunity to plan for the future, increases quality of life, and allows for treatment options.

Objectives: To create an online Continuing Medical Education (CME) module that educates primary care providers about screening tools available to detect dementia and the benefits of early diagnosis for patients and families.

Methods: In collaboration with the Vermont chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and the UVM AV and Technology Service Departments, we developed and produced an online CME module characterized by professional aesthetics, access across a range of technologies, and up-to-date content with recommendations for specific screening protocols.

Results: We presented the module to 60 individuals at a Fletcher Allen Family Medicine Grand Rounds and received positive reviews based on an anonymous survey completed after the presentation. Of all the respondents, 58% currently screen patients in their regular practice. 100% of respondents stated that the module changed, or partially changed, the way they practice and screen patients for dementia and AD.

Conclusion: The module includes guidelines to explain that screening can be performed by any properly trained individual, can take as little as 80-120 seconds, and should be done annually beginning at age 65 or when cognitive changes are recognized. The module is pending approval to be hosted on the UVM CME website.