

## Why participate in RITT?

- Demographic Need: Over 43% of Veterans are aged 65+ and this group accounts for over half of all primary care visits, annually. It is imperative that healthcare providers and staff are better equipped to meet the needs of rural elderly Veterans.
- Strong Outcomes: Now entering the 7<sup>th</sup> year of implementation, past participants cite changes in their practice as a result of the RITT such as:
  - monitoring/assessing for red flags and geriatric syndromes
  - enhancing active listening skills
  - screening for fall risks
  - increasing sensitivity when communicating about culture and learning impairments
- Advantageous: On-site, 1-day trainings and technical resources at no cost to CBOC site

## Coordinating Site

James J. Peters VA Medical Center VISN 2  
GRECC  
Bronx, NY 10468  
Judith L. Howe, PhD, Program Director  
Eve Gottesman, Program Coordinator

## **Continuing to improve care for older rural Veterans through geriatrics team training**

Sponsored by the VA Office of Rural Health  
Geriatrics Expansion Program

Funded by the Office of Rural Health, U.S.  
Department of Veterans Affairs

For more information about the  
Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training

Program, please  
contact: Eve Gottesman

James J. Peters VA Medical Center  
130 West Kingsbridge Road  
Bronx, NY  
Tel: 718-584-9000, ext 3813  
Fax: 718-741-4211  
Email: [Eve.Gottesman@va.gov](mailto:Eve.Gottesman@va.gov)

# Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training



**VISN 2 Geriatric Research,  
Education & Clinical Center  
(GRECC)**



 **Veterans Health Administration**  
**Employee Education System**

**VA**  
**HEALTH**  
**CARE** | Defining  
**EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century

## Program Details

Participants: all members of a rural CBOC team- physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, social workers, pharmacists, occupational therapists, program support assistants, and other professional and paraprofessional staff.

Trainers: co-facilitated by a GRECC affiliated clinician and an educator from the RITT coordinating site.

Workshop learning methods used:

- Icebreaker Exercise
- Case Studies
- Mini-lectures
- Discussion
- Interactive Videos
- Brainstorming
- Role Playing
- Action Planning

*\*RITT is accredited by the VA Employee Education System for 6.5 CE credits*

## Topics

Managing Team Dynamics & Patient Transitions

Geriatric Syndromes: How are older patients different from all other patients and why does it matter?

Resources for Primary Care Providers in Geriatrics

Dementia: Assessment and Brief Tools

Developing Team Action Plans

Evaluation: All participants complete a pre-training team assessment, an end-of-day evaluation and knowledge assessment, a 3 & 6 month post-training team assessment, and create an action plan to practice change.



## Goals

- ◇ Educate primary care providers and staff in common geriatric conditions
- ◇ Increase geriatrics team-based expertise in rural CBOCs
- ◇ Incorporate team-based geriatrics knowledge and skills into CBOC providers' practice

RITT is a nationwide program. Since its inception in FY 2011, RITT has been conducted at over 80 rural CBOCs, serving over 1,000 primary care providers and staff.

**If you are interested in sponsoring a RITT program at your CBOC, contact [Eve.Gottesman@va.gov](mailto:Eve.Gottesman@va.gov) to discuss opportunities in FY 2017**