

Dementia is a condition of the brain that affects as many as four million Americans. Memory loss is one of the first signs of dementia followed by changes in personality, behavior, thinking, and the ability to communicate clearly.

Dementia can affect younger age groups, but is most common in those persons who are age 65 years and older. Dementia is not a part of the normal aging process. Early diagnosis of dementia is important. A medical examination is necessary to identify what has caused the dementia. Some forms of dementia are reversible with appropriate medical attention. In other cases, a treatment plan can be developed that will help support the patient, family and caregivers.

Early diagnosis and treatment allows patients and their families time to try treatment options, connect with support services, and make practical plans for the future. The VA is committed to assisting veterans and their families with the diagnosis, treatment and the care associated with dementia.

Services Available

- *Early testing and screening*
- *Medical care*
- *Medications*
- *Caregiver support*
- *Education*
- *Respite care*
- *Long-term planning*
- *Benefits counseling*
- *Referral to community programs:*
 - ◆ *Adult Day Care*
 - ◆ *Home Based Primary Care*
 - ◆ *Homemaker/HHA*
 - ◆ *Residential Care Homes*
 - ◆ *Alzheimer's Association Support Groups*



Working in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association

Contacts

For more information, contact the **Dementia Care Manager** at your nearest VA Healthcare Network Upstate New York medical center:

Albany Lucy Phelps	518-626-6051
Bath Jane Aniskevich	607-664-4512
Canandaigua/Rochester Michele Long	585-393-7507
Syracuse Susan Dann-Cherock	315-476-7461 x3751
Western New York (Buffalo & Batavia) Nancy Hook	716-862-3158

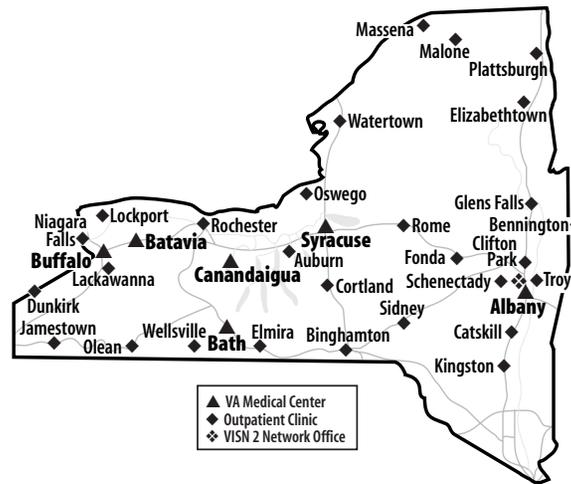


10 Warning Signs of Early Dementia

- ✓ Recent memory loss that affects job skills
- ✓ Difficulty performing familiar tasks
- ✓ Difficulty finding the right word when speaking
- ✓ Difficulty remembering the date, or feeling lost
- ✓ Loss of judgement
- ✓ Misplacing things
- ✓ Difficulty with abstract thinking
- ✓ Changes in mood or behavior
- ✓ Changes in personality
- ✓ Loss of your “get-up-and-go”

If you or someone you know has any of these symptoms, you should contact the VA or your physician for a complete medical examination.

Reaching Us Is Easy



VA Health Care On The Web
www.va.gov/visns/visn02
Upstate New York Veterans ~
 Wherever you are, When you need help ...
VA TELCARE
1-888-838-7890

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Dementia Care Services for Veterans



the Right Care
the Right Time
the Right Place

