

**DIRECT CONNECT:
AN ESSENTIAL RESOURCE FOR ALL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**



Presented by:

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Audience Poll: Direct Connect Familiarity

Never heard of it

Heard of it, but never used it

Used it

What is Direct Connect?

- A free, secure, HIPPA-compliant referral program which rapidly connects patients and caregivers to the Alzheimer's Association.
- After the referral is received, the Alzheimer's Association contacts the individual within 2 business days.
- No delay due to fear, stigma, uncertainty, etc.



Direct Connect... helps caregivers

- Dementia caregivers have greater levels of stress/burden compared to non-dementia caregivers.
- Caregiver and patient quality of life are connected.
- Rapid connection to free care & support services.
 - Disease education
 - Private care consultations
 - Support groups
 - 24/7 Helpline
- Connection to personal care, respite care, transportation, home delivered meals, legal & financial assistance
- Connection to clinical research trials



Ways to Access the Referral Form

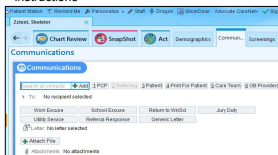


Bookmark the Link

<https://www.alz.org/media/wi/documents/Direct-Connect-Referral-Form-Wisconsin-Chapter-2019-No-Signature-Box.pdf>

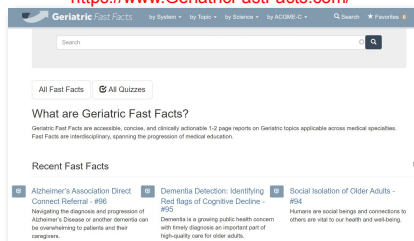


Embedded it within EPIC & created instructions

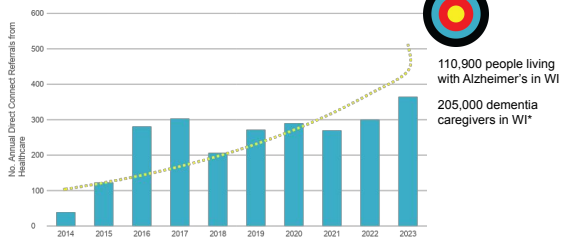


Geriatric Fast Facts #96

<https://www.GeriatricFastFacts.com/>



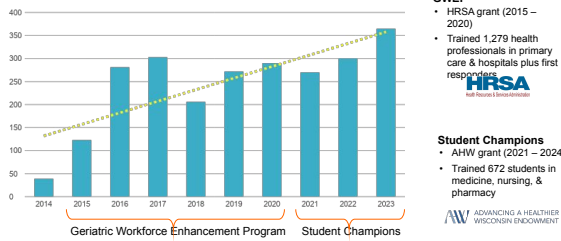
Direct Connect is Under-Utilized



110,900 people living with Alzheimer's in WI
205,000 dementia caregivers in WI*


*Alzheimer's Association. 2024 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. Alzheimer's & Dementia, 2024.2026.

Major Initiatives to Grow Awareness & Use




GWEP

- HRSA grant (2015 – 2020)
- Trained 1,279 health professionals in primary care & hospitals plus first responders



Student Champions

- AHW grant (2021 – 2024)
- Trained 672 students in medicine, nursing, & pharmacy



A Medical Student's Perspective



Clara Martin, MPH
Medical College of Wisconsin

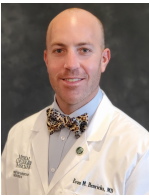
- Students' reaction to the training (n=387)
 - 82% excellent or very good overall
 - 79% very or somewhat likely to use DC
- Experience with initiating referrals
- Perspective on "student champions"



Kieran McAvoy, MD



A Doctor's Perspective



Evan Henricks, MD
Froedtert & Medical College of WI
Geriatrics Memory Disorders
Clinic

Significance of Direct Connect

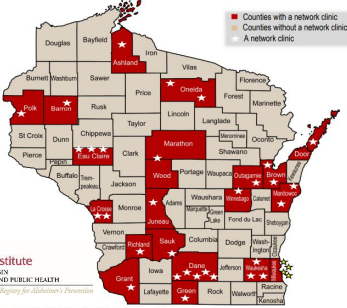
Benefits to physicians & other healthcare professionals

- Only one referral to make
- Improves patient/caregiver adherence with recommendation(s)

How care management & caregiver support have changed over time with introduction of Direct Connect

WAI Clinic Network

- Network of dementia diagnostic clinics
- Uses standardized diagnostic protocols & an interdisciplinary team approach
- Direct Connect Referrals



Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
Home of WISN Wisconsin's Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention

THANK YOU

ANY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?



Short Feedback
Survey
