



The CVFCA is a group of individuals representing area agencies and organizations, family caregivers of older adults and community members committed to the needs and interests of family caregivers.

Mission

The purpose of the CVFCA is to support and strengthen family caregivers of older adults through advocacy, education and community resources.

Goals

- Increase awareness of caregiving resources in the Chippewa Valley.
- Provide and promote educational opportunities.
- Maximize utilization of services.
- Advocate for the necessary funding for programs and services.

For more information about the CVFCA, contact Bonnie Baskett-Harvey at (715) 831-0100 or baskettharvey.bonnie@may.edu

Family Caregiving - Did you know?

- Nearly 1 out of every 4 U.S. households - 22.4 million (23 percent) - are involved in caring for a person 50 or older. By 2007, that number is projected to reach 39 million households - nearly doubling in less than a decade.
- According to conservative estimate, the economic value of the unpaid informal care friends and family provide nationwide is \$257 billion a year.
- Wisconsin family caregivers provide almost \$4 billion in family caregiving services annually. This ranks Wisconsin 18th in the nation for dollar value caregivers contribute.
- Families are having difficulty managing caregiving responsibilities:
 - Families are smaller, with fewer members available to provide care.
 - Families are geographically dispersed, separated by distance.
 - Many women also work full - or part - time outside the home.
- Caregiver stress can lead to depression, burnout, self-neglect, excessive use of drugs or alcohol, and even neglect or abuse of the care recipient.
- Of the caregivers who provide more than 21 hours of care a week (intensive caregiving) more than half (61 percent) suffer from depression.

Source: Wisconsin Alliance for Family Caregiving
www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/caregiving

Help for your INVISIBLE Patients



Connecting Caregivers
with Services
through Health Care
Providers

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Connecting Caregivers with Services through Health Care Providers

Why Is This Important?

Many of your patients face the same potentially serious health risk, and it's not a disease. This condition - serving as a family caregiver - is recognized by many major physician organizations as a potentially serious health risk in and of itself.

Caregiving is a health concern that you come in contact with every day. In fact, in more than 23 percent of households nationwide individuals are helping persons 50 and older, according to a survey by the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP.

Although rewarding, caregiving can also be extremely stressful - physically, emotionally and mentally. Caregivers often risk their own health, and many unwittingly compromise the care they provide for their aging loved one.

Whether the caregiver is your patient or escorting your patient to see you, they need your help. Ironically, the best care you can give them may have nothing to do with medicine. The best care you can provide caregivers may be to refer them to agencies in your community that have services to help them.

***Caregivers in Wisconsin caring
for older adults:
520,561***

Source: Prevalence and Economic Value of Family Caregiving, National Family Caregivers Association in conjunction with Peter S. Arno, PhD, Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, Montefiore Medical Center, 2003

How Can You Help?

There are a number of ways you and your office staff can help caregivers. In fact, your receptionist, nurse and billing specialists can all help you identify patients who are caregivers and link them to free support programs, classes and other resources, while taking little time away from their job responsibilities.

Connecting Caregivers with Services through Health Care Providers, a program of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging and the Chippewa Valley Family Caregiving Alliance, makes it easy for you to help caregivers. Here's what you can do:

- 1. Help caregivers identify themselves** by including a caregiving question on your patient update form, instructing your staff to ask each patient whether they help an older loved one, or by asking patients to complete the Caregiver Self-Assessment Questionnaire developed by the American Medical Association.
- 2. Provide caregivers with referral information** to your local aging offices and distribute materials describing local services to patients who are caregivers.
- 3. Follow up with patients** to make sure they get connected with the help they need.

How Do You Get Started?

You don't need to be an expert in the field of aging to participate, you only need to know where your patients can go for assistance.

To participate in ***Connecting Caregivers with Services through Health Care Providers***, all you have to do is agree to help identify your patients who are caregivers and refer them to your local aging office. You decide how involved you want to be in the program, how you want your staff to be involved, and where you want to display materials. A member of the Chippewa Valley Family Caregiving Alliance will visit your office to explain the program, provide and replenish any program materials, and monitor how things are going.

In the Chippewa Valley, caregiving information and resources are available by contacting:

Eau Claire County Department on Aging
& Resource Center (715) 839-4735

Chippewa County Department of Aging
(715) 726-7777

Dunn County Office on Aging
(715) 232-4006

Alzheimer's Association
(715) 835-7050
