

ALZHEIMER'S AND RELATED DEMENTIAS SCREENING



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Screening Tool Disclaimer:

The following content, which is maintained and updated by The Ohio State University College of Nursing (CON) Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving, provides a screening toolkit for Alzheimer's and Dementia based on the Gerontological Society of America's (GSA) KAER toolkit. The content is used in a variety of settings and is meant to be used as a guide only. It is important to always contact your healthcare provider with any concerns or questions related to identifying and diagnosing dementia.

The content is current as of January 8, 2024.

ALZHEIMER'S AND RELATED DEMENTIAS SCREENING

Screening and Assessment Tools Introduction

Screening Tools can be very helpful to identify and screen for symptoms of dementia and to determine if further assessment is needed.

Comprehensive Assessments can help diagnose dementia and identify steps to take to address or manage it.

In 2023, a thorough review of valid and reliable tools for dementia care, including screening and assessing adults for symptoms of dementia, elder mistreatment, decision-making, and caregivers' strain was completed. Some of these tools can be self-administered and used by people experiencing symptoms of or living with dementia and their caregivers. Other tools have been identified for health care and community-based providers to utilize and assist them in their practice. In addition, a listing of tools was created for specific populations such as people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities, people living in nursing facilities, refugees or those who speak languages other than English. This listing relied heavily upon the [Gerontological Society of America \(GSA\), KAER Toolkit for Brain Health](#).

Our sincerest thanks and appreciation to GSA for the creation of and willingness to share the KAER Toolkit for Brain Health.

These screening and assessment tools are organized by user - clinicians, community-based providers, family or friend caregivers or the person with suspected dementia - and by topic - dementia screening, elder mistreatment, caregiver strain. You can identify appropriate screening and assessment tools for your patient or family member once you click the assigned button to each tool. There are also links to training or tips on how to use the tools. By utilizing these screening tools, people with dementia and their caregivers may be identified sooner, linked to appropriate assessment services and receive better guidance on future planning, care and community resources.

ALZHEIMER'S AND RELATED DEMENTIAS SCREENING

MAIN MENU

Click on the role below to find potential screening and risk assessment tools for Alzheimer's disease, related dementias, elder abuse and at-risk behaviors, and caregiver tools.

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER Screening Tools

Click the area of interest below to find recommended screening and risk assessment tools specific for health care providers and emergency departments.

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Dementia Screening Tools

Click on the tool button for more information

Healthcare Providers:

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Specific Tool:

Emergency Departments:

MINI-COG



Health Care Provider Tool

Purpose: Screen for mild cognitive impairment or dementia

- Used in primary care offices as a quick screening tool to determine if additional cognitive evaluation is needed
- Can be administered in 3-5 minutes - best used when there is not a lot of time to screen

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

The Mini-Cog is available in 24 languages

[Mini-Cog Training](#)

[Mini-Cog Instrument](#)

MONTREAL COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT (MoCA)



Health Care Provider Tool

Purpose: Screen and assess for impaired executive functioning in health care settings

- Used in primary care offices, memory care centers and geriatric centers
- Takes 20-30 minutes to administer
- Training and certification for administrators (free for health care providers)
- Permission to use the MoCA for clinical and educational purposes
- MoCA can be used, reproduced, and distributed by Commercial Entity/Pharma with prior written permission and a licensing agreement

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

The MoCA is available in 100 languages online. The test is also available in an app and in paper formats

Adapted for the following:

- ▶ Basic Blind-Visual Impairment
- ▶ 5-minute-Telephone (rural)
- ▶ Illiterate or low educational level
- ▶ Hearing Impairment
- ▶ Blind-Telephone

MoCA Training & Certification

MoCA Online

MoCA Paper Versions

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

MENTAL STATUS EXAM (SLUMS)



Health Care Provider Tool

Purpose: Screen for presence of cognitive deficit and to identify changes in cognition over time

- Administered by social services, case managers, licensed nurses, physicians, nurse practitioners, occupational and physical therapists, residence supervisors and any other qualified health care professional once trained
- Takes 20-30 minutes to administer

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

SLUMS is available in 24 languages

[SLUMS Training Video](#)

[SLUMS Exam](#)

NATIONAL TASK GROUP EARLY DETECTION SCREEN FOR DEMENTIA (NTG-EDSD)



Intellectual and Developmental Disability Tool

Purpose: Used as an early detection screening tool for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who are suspected of or may present with early signs of Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) or dementia

- ☑ Designed for people who have IDD
- ☑ Administered by a variety of individuals in a variety of settings who have familiarity with the person who may be experiencing symptoms of dementia or to develop a baseline
- ☑ Many Ohio County Boards of IDD have been trained to use this tool
- ☑ The Gerontological Society of American developed a companion to the GSA KAER Toolkit in 2023: Addressing Brain Health in Adults with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities: A companion GSA KAER Toolkit for Primary Care Teams

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

The NTG-EDSD is available in multiple languages

NTG-EDSD

IDD Toolkit Companion
GSA KAER

IDENTIFICATION OF SENIORS AT RISK (ISAR)



Emergency Department Tool

Purpose: Identify high-risk subgroups of seniors who present to the emergency department (65 years of age or older)

- Can be completed by the senior or the person accompanying them
- 6-item screening questionnaire easily and quickly administered within the emergency department

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

The ISAR is available in multiple languages

[ISAR Manual](#)

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation Screening Tools

Click on the tool button for more information

Healthcare Providers:

Emergency Departments:

ELDER ABUSE SUSPICION INDEX (EASI)



Health Care Provider Tool

Purpose: Developed to help family physicians screen for elder abuse

- Used in health care settings by trained professionals
- Screens for multiple types of elder abuse

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

The EASI is available in numerous languages

ELDER ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT (EAI)



Health Care Provider Tool

Purpose: Used in a clinical setting to screen for elder mistreatment

- Administered by health care and clinical providers; can also be used in dental clinics
- Screens for psychological abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, physical and sexual abuse
- Takes approximately 15 minutes to administer

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

EAI

CAREGIVER ABUSE SCREEN (CASE)



Health Care Provider Tool

Purpose: To screen for abuse through multiple sources; through caregivers, care-receivers, and/or abuse interveners, rather than only through professional reporting

- Designed specifically for community use
- Used by healthcare professionals, social workers, and other professionals who work with elderly or disabled adults to identify potential cases of abuse and neglect
- Used in a variety of settings, including long-term care, hospitals, home health care, and within the community
- Administer on older adults and disabled adults

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

CASE

BRIEF ABUSE SCREEN FOR ELDERLY (BASE)



Health Care Provider Tool

Purpose: Designed to detect abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults

- Administered by a healthcare provider in a face-to-face interview
- Screening helps to determine how quickly interventions need to take place
- Can be completed in less than 5 minutes
- 6-item questionnaire that assess the physical, psychological, financial, and sexual abuse of older adults.

Considerations for Special Populations:

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- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
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- ▶ Living alone

BASE

ELDER MISTREATMENT SCREENING AND RESPONSE TOOL (EM-SART)



Emergency Department Tool

Purpose: Developed to use in the emergency department for the identification of suspected elder mistreatment

- Users should undergo training on the use of this screening, as well as elder abuse geriatric syndrome training
- Important to ask screening questions privately while the patient is unaccompanied
- Takes approximately 15 minutes to administer

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

[EM-SART Tool](#)

[Online Training](#)

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

At-Risk Behaviors, Caregiving and Wandering Screening Tools

Click on the tool button for more information

Healthcare Providers:

Healthcare Providers within VA Hospital:

DEWING WANDERING RISK ASSESSMENT



Health Care Provider Tool

Purpose: Screen for wandering risk in health care and long-term care settings

- Administered by a healthcare providers and long-term care staff

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
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- ▶ Living alone

Dewing Wandering
Risk Assessment

Tool Guidance

A TOOLKIT: PATIENTS AT RISK FOR WANDERING



VA Health Care Provider Tool

Purpose: Minimize harm of patients in the VA systems, including wandering

- Offers multiple degrees of interventions
- 3 cognitive aids, a poster, and a number of resources available online

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
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Toolkit

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION Screening Tools

Click the area of interest below to find recommended screening and risk assessment tools specific for community based organizations and social service providers.

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Dementia Screening Tools

Click on the tool button for more information

Community Based Organizations:

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Specific Tool:

MINI-COG



Community Based Organization Tool

Purpose: Screen for cognitive impairment in a community setting in an effort to support recommendations for further cognitive evaluation by a healthcare provider

- Used in community based and social service agencies as a quick screening tool to determine if a referral for additional cognitive evaluation is needed by a health care provider

Considerations for Special Populations:

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- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

The Mini-Cog is available in 24 languages

[Mini-Cog Training](#)

[Mini-Cog Instrument](#)

MONTREAL COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT (MoCA)



Community Based Organization Tool

Purpose: Screen for mild cognitive impairment or dementia and refer for further evaluation

- Used in community based organizations focused on providing support to adults with known or suspected Alzheimer's and Related Dementias (ADRD) (i.e. AAA, Office for Older Adults, Public Health)
- Training and certification for administrators (free for health care providers)
- Permission to use the MoCA for clinical and educational purposes
- MoCA can be used, reproduced, and distributed by commercial entity/Pharma with prior written permission and a licensing agreement

Considerations for Special Populations:

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- ▶ Rural
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MoCA Training & Certification

MoCA Online

MoCA Paper Versions

NATIONAL TASK GROUP EARLY DETECTION SCREEN FOR DEMENTIA (NTG-EDSD)



Developmental Disability Specific Tool

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- Designed for people who have IDD
- Administered by a variety of individuals in a variety of settings who have familiarity with the person who may be experiencing symptoms of dementia or to develop a baseline
- Ohio County Boards of IDD are being trained and are starting to use
- The Gerontological Society of American developed a companion to the GSA KAER Toolkit in 2023: Addressing Brain Health in Adults with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities: A companion GSA KAER Toolkit for Primary Care Teams

Considerations for Special Populations:

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- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

The NTG-EDSD is available in multiple languages

[NTG-EDSD](#)

[IDD Toolkit Companion
GSA KAER](#)

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation Screening Tools

Click on the tool button for more information

Community Based Organizations:

CAREGIVER ABUSE SCREEN (CASE)



Community Based Organization Tool

Purpose: To screen for abuse through multiple sources; through caregivers, care-receivers, and/or abuse interveners, rather than only through professional reporting

- Designed specifically for community use
- Used by healthcare professionals, social workers, and other professionals who work with elderly or disabled adults to identify potential cases of abuse and neglect
- Used in a variety of settings, including long-term care, hospitals, home health care, and within the community
- Administer on older adults and disabled adults

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
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CASE

BRIEF ABUSE SCREEN FOR ELDERLY (BASE)



Community Based Organization Tool

Purpose: Designed to detect abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults

- Administered by a healthcare provider in a face-to-face interview
- Screening helps to determine how quickly interventions need to take place
- Can be completed in less than 5 minutes
- 6-item questionnaire that assess the physical, psychological, financial, and sexual abuse of older adults.

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

BASE

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

At-Risk Behaviors, Caregiving & Wandering Screening Tools

Click on the tool button for more information

Community Based Organizations:

DEWING WANDERING RISK ASSESSMENT



Community Based Organization Tool

Purpose: Screen for wandering risk in health care and long-term care settings

- Administered by a healthcare providers and long-term care staff

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

Dewing Wandering
Risk Assessment

Tool Guidance

FAMILY/FRIEND AND SELF Screening Tools

Click the area of interest below to find recommended screening and risk assessment tools specific for family/friend and self.

FAMILY/FRIEND & SELF

Dementia Screening Tools

Click on the tool button for more information

Family/Friend:

Self Administered:

For both Family/Friend & Self Administered:

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Specific Tool:

INFORMANT QUESTIONNAIRE ON COGNITIVE DECLINE IN ELDERLY (IQCODE Short Form)



Family/Friend & Self Tool

Purpose: To assess cognitive decline and dementia in older people

- Screening completed by a friend or relative who has known the older person 5 years or longer
- Short form IQCODE - or IQCODE 16 screening tool (score each question and divide by the number of questions; the short form is 16 questions)

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

The IQCODE Short Form is available in multiple languages; good choice as a primary screening in which the person screened has a language or culture other than English and has a very low level of education or has previous cognitive impairment

[IQCODE Short Form](#)

BEHAVIORAL PATHOLOGY IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE (BEHAVE-AD)



Family/Friend & Self Tool

Purpose: Measure behavioral disturbances in dementia separately from cognitive and functional disturbances in dementia

- Completed by caregivers or other informal informants to measure behavioral disturbances in patients with Alzheimer's disease and can be used to evaluate the efficacy of pharmacologic and non-pharmacological treatments for the behavioral disturbances of dementia

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

BEHAVE-AD

SELF-ADMINISTERED GEROCOGNITIVE EXAM (SAGE)



Family/Friend & Self Tool

Purpose: Detect early signs of cognitive, memory or thinking impairments

- Self-administered by adults who are concerned that they may have a cognitive issue
- Available in paper format (free of charge), and a mobile app version (BrainTest)
- Directions for physician use and scoring available online
- Must be taken to a physician for scoring

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

The SAGE is available in 10 languages

SAGE

Mobile App Version

ASCERTAIN 8-ITEM INFORMANT QUESTIONNAIRE (AD8)



Family/Friend & Self Tool

Purpose: Detect early cognitive changes associated with various dementias, including Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, frontotemporal and Lewy body dementias

- Self-administered, family or informant can complete
- Can be read aloud to the respondent or informant in person or over the phone
- Permission to use and reproduce the AD8 as it appears has been granted for use in clinical care or research. See Permission Statement on questionnaire for any other use

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

The AD8 is also available in Spanish

AD8

ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR DEMENTIA QUESTIONNAIRE (ABDQ)



Developmental Disability Specific Tool

Purpose: This 15-item questionnaire detects change in adaptive behavior by comparing current functioning to typical functioning.

- Easy to administer
- Family is the informant and the length of time the informant has known the adult is specified
- Does not track response to interventions

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

ABDQ

ASSESSMENT OF ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (AADD)



Developmental Disability Specific Tool

Purpose: Comprised of 28 items that measure function with focus on behavior and performance related to cognitive and physical decline.

- Questionnaire should be completed by a caregiver who is familiar with the observed person

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

AADD

DEMENTIA QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES (DLD)



Developmental Disability Specific Tool

Purpose: Cognitive and social scores based on 8 subscales in this 50-item questionnaire.

- Questionnaire should be completed by a caregiver who is familiar with the observed person. Behavior during approximately the last 2 months must be observed and scored

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

DLD

PRUDHOE COGNITIVE FUNCTION TEST (PCFT)



Developmental Disability Specific Tool

Purpose: The PCFT is a test that is used to assess the cognitive function of individuals with an intellectual disability.

- There are 3 versions of the test: the original long version and 2 short versions
- Short version: 21-item informant cognitive test that takes 15 minutes to complete. Tests for orientation, language, memory, spatial and conceptual skills
- Can use the test at no cost; is available to all clinicians
- Administered directly to the participant concerned and does not rely on information obtained from others. It is recommended that the test be used serially over time to aid in the detection of cognitive decline

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

PCFT

DEMENTIA SCALE FOR DOWN'S SYNDROM (DSDS)



Developmental Disability Specific Tool

Purpose: Measurement of early, middle and late stages of dementia.

- 50-item questionnaire
- Should be completed by a caregiver who is familiar with the observed person

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

[DSDS](#)

FAMILY/FRIEND & SELF

Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation Screening Tools

Click on the tool button for more information

Family/Friend:

Self Administered:

HWALEK-SENGSTOCK ELDER ABUSE SCREENING TEST (H-S/EAST)



Family/Friend & Self Tool

Purpose: Useful to service providers interested in identifying people at high risk of the need for protective services

- Used in emergency, outpatient settings and caregiver administered
- 15-item instrument

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

H-S/EAST

LICHTENBERG FINANCIAL DECISION-MAKING SCREENING



Family/Friend & Self Tool

Purpose: Screen for financial vulnerability

- Self-administered or can be administered to the older adult
- Multiple screenings and assessments focused on financial vulnerability of older adults
- Online versions, training and certification available

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

[Lichtenberg Screening](#)

[Online versions,
training & certification](#)

FAMILY/FRIEND & SELF

At-Risk Behaviors, Caregiving and Wandering Screening Tools

Click on the tool button for more information

Family/Friend:

Caregiver

INFORMANT QUESTIONNAIRE ON COGNITIVE DECLINE IN ELDERLY

(IQCODE Short Form)



Family/Friend & Self Tool

Purpose: Assessment to determine risk for wandering

- Screening tool for cognition and/or dementia used in a hospital type setting with caregiver/family informants who know the patient

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

IQCODE Short Form

REVISED MEMORY & BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS CHECKLIST (RMBPC)



Family/Friend & Self Tool

Purpose: Assess for risky behaviors of people living with dementia and the responses of caregivers to the behaviors

- 24-item caregiver report measure
- Link to American Psychological Association (APA) publication and Behavioral Problems checklist

Considerations for Special Populations:

- ▶ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ LES/Immigrant/Refugee
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Rural
- ▶ Nursing home
- ▶ Living alone

RMBPC is valid and reliable for Hispanic and African American populations. Translated into Spanish, Mandarin, German, Japanese, Chinese and other languages

[RMBPC](#)

[APA publication](#)

FOR THE CAREGIVER



Caregiving Tools

Purpose: Identify caregiver stress, burden, etc., and develop a plan for intervention; identify the causes of behavior issues; skill building for caregiver to address behavioral issues of the person with dementia

- ☑ **Alzheimer's Los Angeles Care Needs Assessment Tool:** A guide that includes multiple tools and resources; tools available in Spanish.
- ☑ **IDEA! Strategy:** An approach to help you figure out why a behavior is happening and what you can do about it. Available in Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Tagalog.
- ☑ **Benjamin Rose Institute Caregiver Strain Instrument:** Self administered; screens to determine if further caregiver intervention is needed
- ☑ **REACH II Risk Appraisal:** Caregiver completes regarding behaviors of the person with dementia; skill building program that helps with the challenges associated with caregiving for a person with ADRD

[Alzheimer's LA Care Needs Assessment](#)

[Benjamin Rose Institute Caregiver Strain](#)

[IDEA! Strategy](#)

[REACH II Risk Appraisal](#)

Acknowledgements



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