

Educating Healthcare Providers

A recent report from the [Alzheimer's Association](#) demonstrated that 50% of primary care providers don't feel prepared to diagnose and manage Alzheimer's disease/related dementias. Unfortunately, very little education is provided to healthcare professionals about dementia during their education and training. This includes physicians, nurses, physical, occupational and speech therapists, social workers, dentists, etc. In fact, as a caregiver who has learned about Alzheimer's disease/related dementia, you probably know more than most healthcare professionals.

Be prepared to let the healthcare professional know what you know about your loved one and their condition. For example, you might say to your primary care provider, "My husband was put on this antidepressant to manage his anxiety not to treat depression." Or, the home care nurse comes in and you educate her about your mom's "moderate Alzheimer's disease" and communication skills she will need to be successful in working with your mom.

The goal in each of these situations is to be a "partner in care" with the healthcare professional. Your input and knowledge are vital. Even if the professional understands dementia, they probably don't understand your person or your situation. To read more about how you can be a good partner with your healthcare providers, visit this [guide](#).