



## NEWS RELEASE From Halton Healthcare

---

### **For Immediate Release**

November 27, 2019

### **Halton Healthcare Receives Leadership Award for Dementia Care for Third Year in a Row**

Halton Healthcare has received a recognition award from Advanced Gerontological Education (AGE) Inc. for continuous commitment to dementia education.

“I am so proud of our staff and physicians for receiving this award and demonstrating their on-going leadership in caring for patients with dementia,” said Judy Linton, Senior Vice President Clinical Programs & Chief Nursing Executive, Halton Healthcare. “When it comes to caring for all patients, our values of compassion, accountability and respect, guide our daily interactions so that we are able to deliver exemplary patient experiences.”

The award recognized Halton Healthcare’s commitment to Gentle Persuasive Approaches (GPA) education, an innovative dementia care education curriculum that gives staff techniques and tools for responding to challenging patient behaviours. Since 2016 Halton Healthcare has trained over 650 staff including nurses, unit clerks, diagnostic imaging staff, volunteers and housekeeping staff. This is the third year in a row the organization has received this recognition.

“Staff who have received the training can approach patients confidently and calmly using their newly acquired skills and tools,” said Daniel Ball, Director of Rehabilitation & Geriatrics and Patient Flow, Halton Healthcare. “Families often ask our staff for help in caring for a loved one who has dementia once they leave the hospital and we are able to connect them with necessary resources.”

"As a healthcare provider who cares for many patients with dementia I found the GPA training to be incredibly insightful," said Registered Nurse Stephanie Krush. "The training helped me to better understand the meaning behind a patient’s behaviour which has made me more empathetic as I support patients and their families."

According to the Government of Canada website more than 419,000 Canadians aged 65 years of age and older are living with a diagnosis of dementia – a term used to describe symptoms affecting the brain that include a decline in cognitive abilities such as memory; awareness of person, place, and time; language; basic math skills; judgment; and planning. Mood and behaviour may also change as a result of this decline. Dementia is a progressive condition that, over time, can reduce the ability to independently maintain activities of daily life.



*Many of Halton Healthcare's Coaches are seen here who lead skill-building workshops on assessing and responding to challenging behaviours associated with dementia. Left to right: Martha Budgell, Cindy Archibald, Gaye Morgan, Tsion Williams, Amy Cotter and Emily Norcliffe  
Missing: Jacqueline Goodban and Shannon Power*

### **About Halton Healthcare**

Halton Healthcare is a healthcare organization comprised of three community hospitals - Georgetown Hospital, Milton District Hospital and Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital and several community programs and services. Together we provide healthcare services to nearly 400,000 residents in the communities of Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville. Halton Healthcare has been recognized for its best practices in a number of patient safety and patient care initiatives. For more information, visit [www.haltonhealthcare.com](http://www.haltonhealthcare.com) Follow us on Twitter @HaltonHlthcare and Facebook.

### **Media Contact**

Kari Veno  
Senior Communications Consultant  
Communications & Public Affairs Department  
Halton Healthcare  
Tel: 905-845-2571, ext. 3861  
[kveno@haltonhealthcare.com](mailto:kveno@haltonhealthcare.com)  
[www.haltonhealthcare.com](http://www.haltonhealthcare.com)