

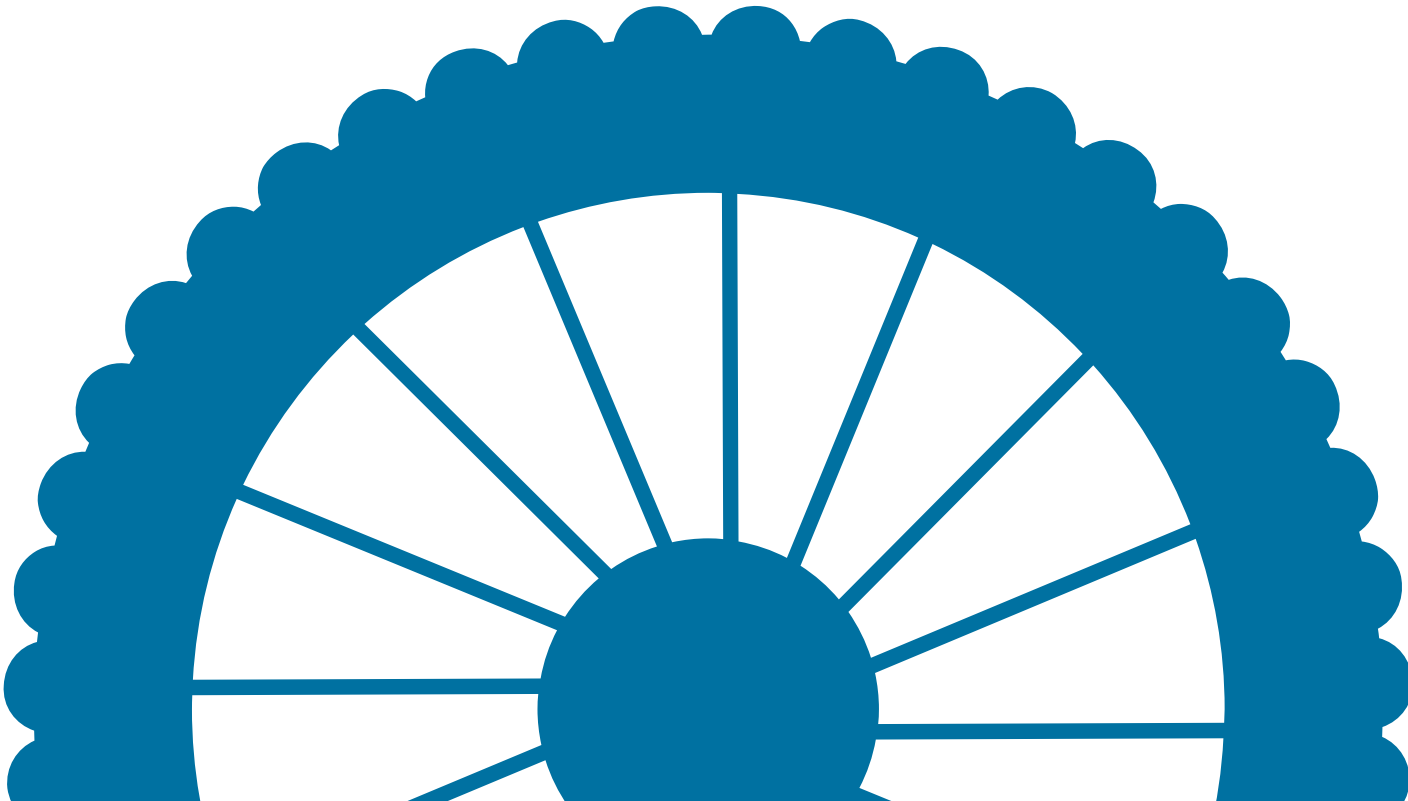


# Vermont's Dementia Care Hub & Spoke Model

July 2026

# Vermont's Dementia Care Hub & Spoke Model

## Background



- An interprofessional health team that builds and leverages dementia care expertise and services, and is based on the UCLA Dementia Care Model
- Longstanding Hub & Spoke workgroup that meets monthly to discuss next steps in building a dementia capable clinical, home and community-based system.

# Goals

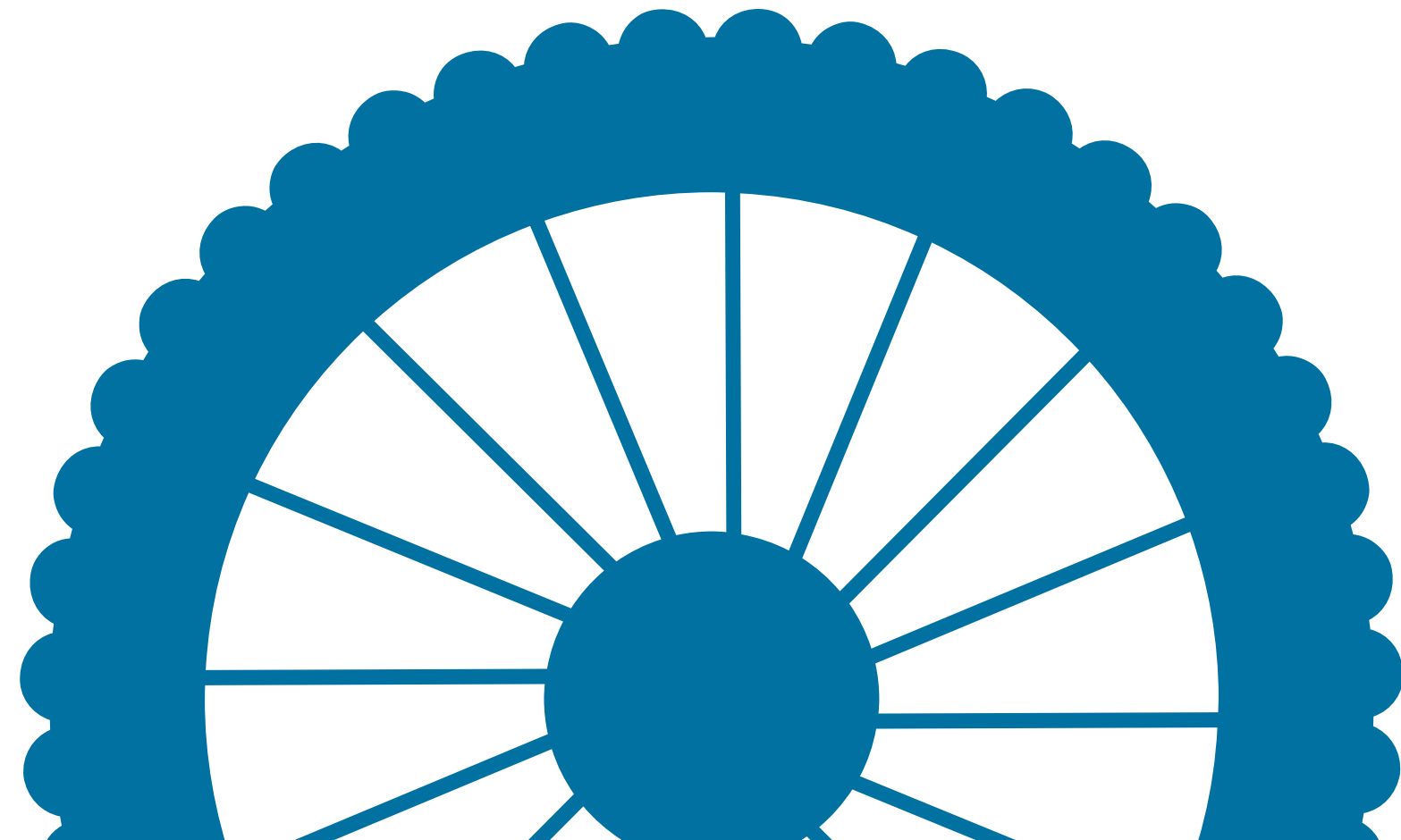
- ① Create a statewide dementia-capable primary care as part of a home and community-based (HCBS) “no wrong door” approach.
- ② Increase screening, diagnosis, and care for individuals living with dementia.
- ③ Support recognition of the care partner and patient as an integral part of the care team.
- ④ Improve quality of life for dementia caregivers and those living with the disease.
- ⑤ Reduce preventable dementia-related emergency department visits and hospitalizations.

# Implementation of Dementia Care Hub & Spoke Model

- Recognizes primary care as a dementia-care home.
- Promotes up-training for primary care teams to screen, diagnose, and provide dementia care.
- Provides specialized training to support the integration of Dementia Care Specialists and Assistants who can help navigate into the primary care team.
- Educates primary care on billing codes that support the reimbursement of screening, diagnostics, and treatment.
- Increase awareness of available dementia care support services and referral processes.
- Recognizes the role of specialized medical or memory care centers to manage more complex and advanced cases of dementia.



# Vermont's Dementia Care Hub & Spoke Model



# What is a “Hub” in the Vermont Dementia Care Model?

## Hub

- Sees dementia patient and caregiver for advanced and complex cases
- Uses a shared care model with hub-lets, spokes and tire
- Services include triage of dementia stages, comprehensive cognitive work-up, advanced diagnostics, FDA-approved dementia treatments
- Refers patients and caregivers to care support services which may delay progression

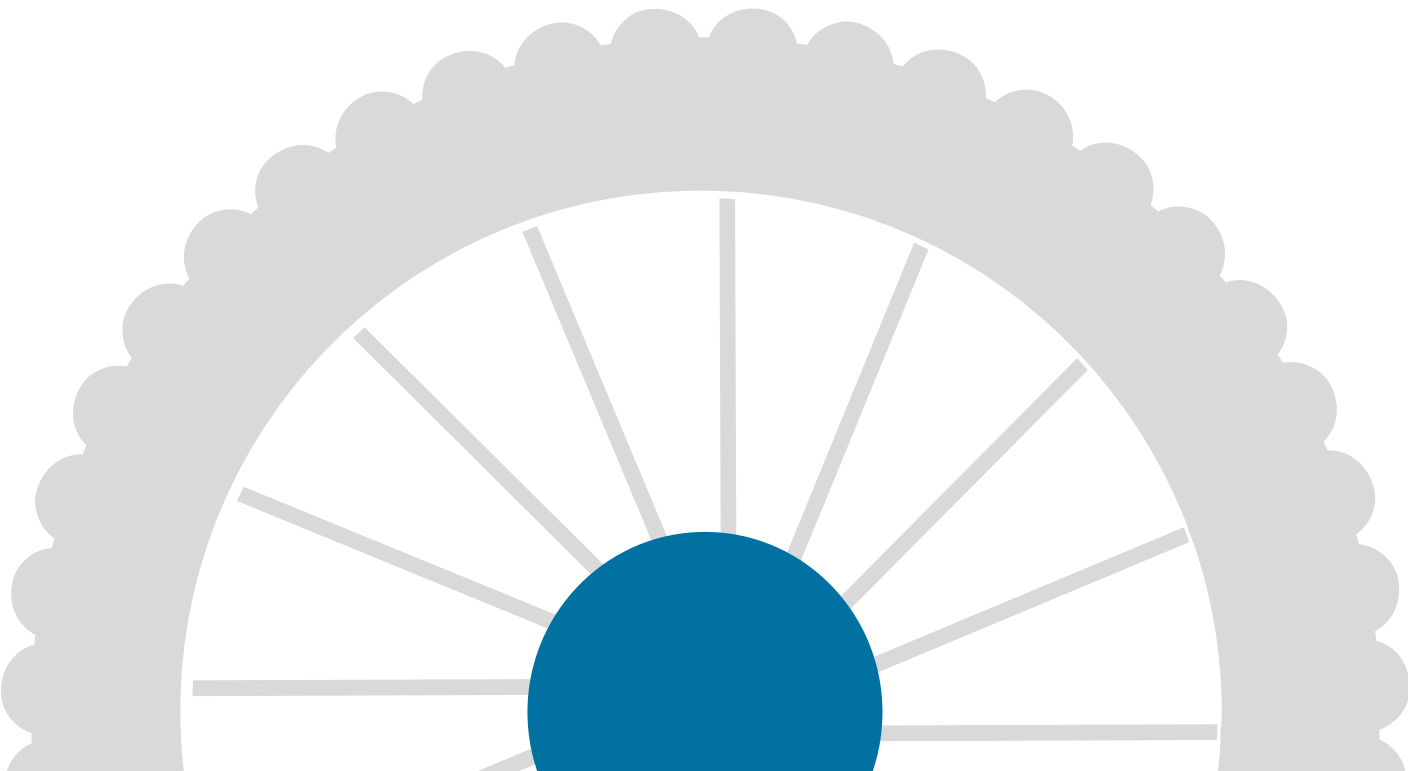
# What is a “Hub” in the Vermont Dementia Care Model?

- ✓ Shared care model with hub-lets, spokes, and tire
- ✓ Dementia Care team includes:
  - Ideally both Dementia Care Specialist and Dementia Care Assistant
  - Social Worker
  - Neurologist
  - Psychiatrist
  - Geriatric trained position(s)
  - Advanced Practice Nurse
  - Speech pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist
- ✓ Sees dementia patient and caregiver for advanced and complex cases
- ✓ Services include triage of dementia stages, comprehensive cognitive work-up, advanced diagnostics (MRI, etc.), FDA-approved dementia treatments
- ✓ Refers patients and caregivers to care support services which may delay progression (AAAs, Community Health Teams, Adult Day Centers, etc.)

# What is a “Hub-let” in the Vermont Dementia Care Model?

## Hub-let

- Sees dementia patient and caregiver for advanced and complex cases
- Uses a shared care model with hubs, spokes, and tire
- Services may include triage, cognitive screening, some advanced diagnostics
- May refer for advanced diagnostics and FDA-approved treatments
- Refers patients and caregivers to care support services which may delay progression

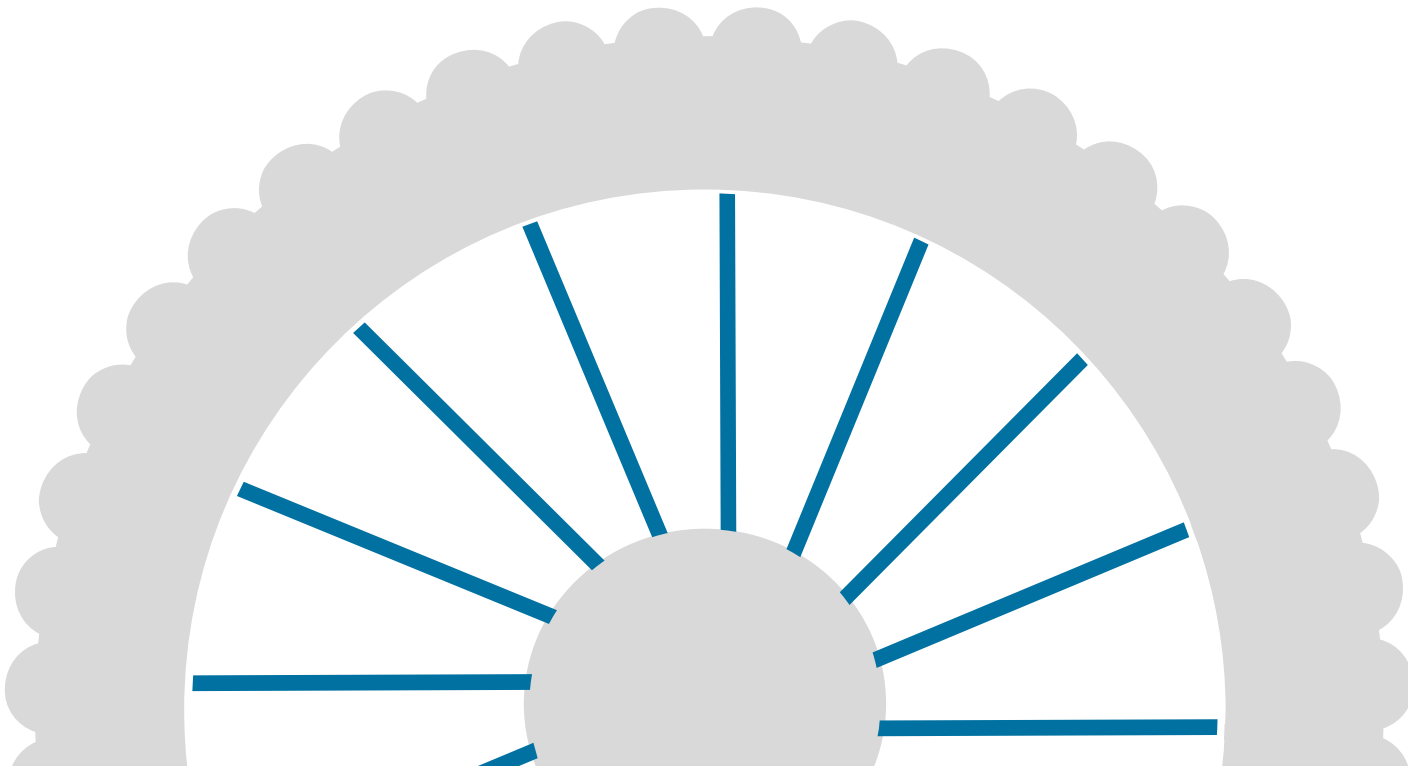


# What is a “Hub-let” in the Vermont Dementia Care Model?

- ✓ Completes the UCLA Dementia Care or comparable training
- ✓ Likely a hospital-medical care system or larger primary care system
- ✓ Uses a shared care model with hubs, spokes and tire
- ✓ Dementia Care team includes:
  - Dementia Care Specialist
  - Dementia Care Assistant who can help navigate (or building capacity towards)
  - Physician or APN (specialty may vary) who can order MRI and other diagnostics
  - Social Worker
  - Speech pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist
- ✓ Services may include triage, cognitive screening, some advanced diagnostics
- ✓ May provide or refer for advanced diagnostics and FDA-approved treatments
- ✓ Refers patients and caregivers to care support services which may delay progression (AAAs, Community Health Teams, Adult Day Centers, OT/PT, etc.)

# What is a “Spoke” in the Vermont Dementia Care Model?

## Spokes



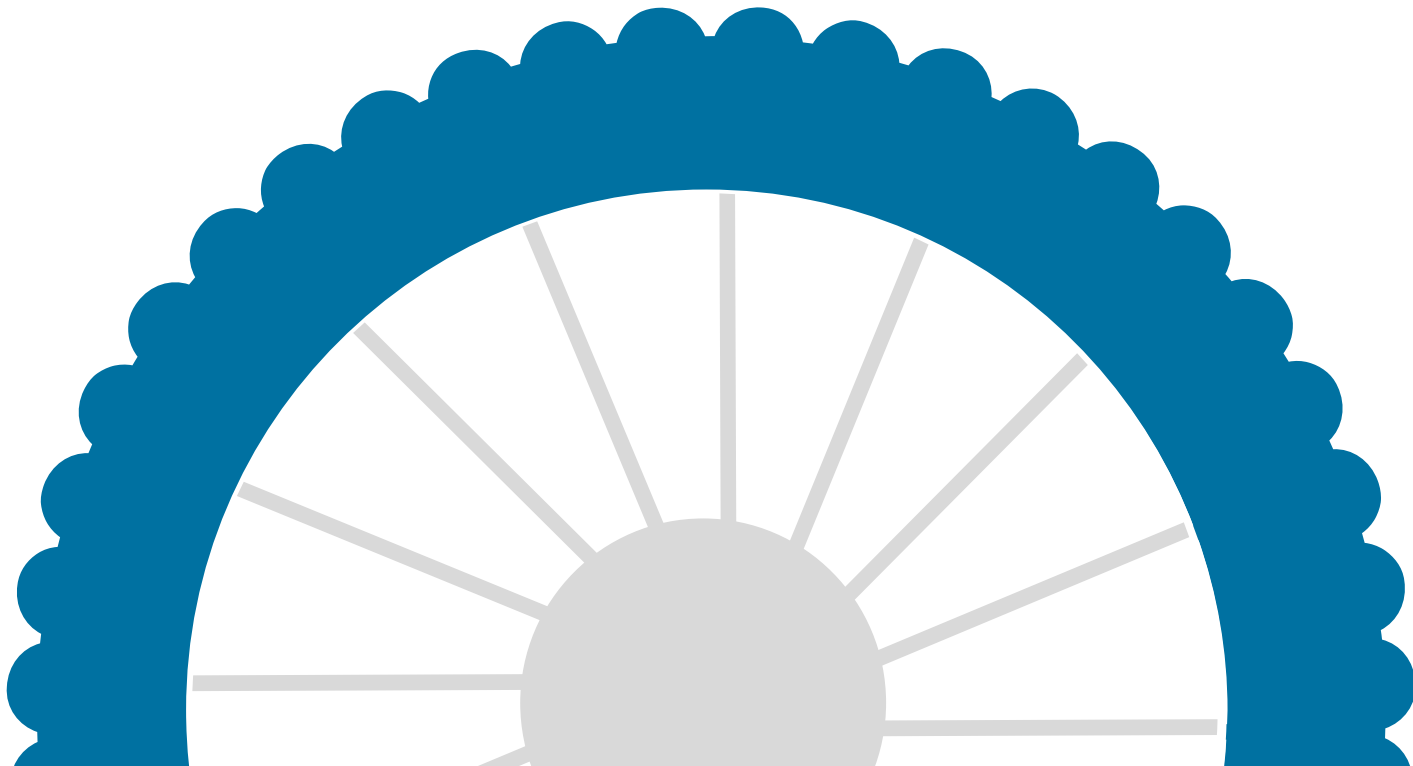
- Uses shared care model with a hub, hub-let for complex cases, and tire
- Performs cognitive screening and diagnosis for less complex cases and can get assistance from Dementia Care Specialist for more complex cases.
- Refers for advanced diagnostics and FDA-approved complex treatments
- Provides some triage or staging, routine follow-up visits
- Supports Advanced Directives
- Refers patients and caregivers to care support services which may delay progression

# What is a “Spoke” in the Vermont Dementia Care Model?

- ✓ Up-trains as a dementia-capable primary care team
- ✓ For complex cases, uses shared care model with a hub or hub-let and tire
- ✓ Care team can include:
  - Physician, Geriatrician or APN (specialty may vary) who can order advanced diagnostics
  - Registered Nurse
  - Dementia Care Specialist or Assistant (upon referral)
  - Social Worker
- ✓ Performs cognitive screening and diagnosis for non-complex cases
- ✓ Refers for advanced diagnostics and FDA-approved complex treatments
- ✓ Provides some triage or staging, routine follow-up visits including by phone
- ✓ Supports Advanced Directives
- ✓ Refers patients and caregivers to care support services which may delay progression (AAAs, Community Health Teams, Adult Day Centers, OT/PT, etc.)
- ✓ May use EHR to identify individuals who may benefit from cognitive screening

# What is the “Tire or Support Network” in the Vermont Dementia Care Model?

## Tire or Support Network



- Provides community-based or clinic-based care support services for patients and caregivers
- Extension of the care team to support care coordination and reinforce care plan messaging with patient and caregiver
- Community-based care support services may include meal delivery, support groups, exercise classes, memory cafes, options counseling
- Clinic-based care support services may include counseling, physical therapy, speech therapy, nutrition, chronic disease management

# What is the “Tire or Support Network” in the Vermont Dementia Care Model?

- ✓ Provides **community-based or clinic-based care support** services for patients and caregivers
- ✓ Extension of the care team to support care coordination and reinforce care plan messaging with patient and caregiver

## Community-based Care Support

- Community-based organization examples include:
  - Area Agency on Aging (AAA)
  - Senior Centers
  - Adult Day Centers
  - Alzheimer’s Association Support Groups
  - Independent caregiver coaches
- Services may include:
  - Congregate meals or meal delivery
  - Memory cafes
  - Group exercise programs
  - Support groups
  - Options counseling
- Services may be self-pay or funded through other federal or state sources

## Clinic-based Care Support

- Clinic-based care support organization examples include:
  - Community Health Teams
  - Dementia Family Caregiver Center
- Services may include:
  - Counseling
  - Nutrition
  - Occupational Therapy
  - Physical Therapy
  - Chronic disease management
- Services are often billed/paid for through insurance

# Technological Supports

- Hub, Hub-let, Spoke, and Support Network partners uses technological supports to share patient and caregiver referrals and updates.
- Technological Support examples include:
  - Electronic referral forms or paper/fax referral forms (for Dementia Family Caregiver Center and Area Agencies on Aging)
  - Integrated EHR
  - Smart phrase (for dementia screening, work-up, diagnosis, referrals)
  - Ping or Alert (including between clinical care and Area Agency on Aging)
  - Caregiver support platforms (GetSetUp)

# Current Partners

- Adult Day Centers nursing and care teams
- Alzheimer's Association, Regional Health System Director
- Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) Care Coordinators
- Bennington Memory Clinic
- Bi-State Primary Care Association
- Blueprint for Health and its Community Health Teams
- Dementia Collaborative
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Full Circle Medicine
- Gifford Medical Center and primary care
- Primary care including private pay
- Senior Centers (there are 44 in VT)
- UVM Dementia Family Caregiver Center
- UVM Medical Center Memory Program
- Vermont Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association
- Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living
- Vermont Department of Health
- VT Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

# Vermont's Hub & Spoke Dementia Care Model

**This work is co-facilitated by a core team consisting of the Dementia Collaborative, Dementia Care Specialist Christina Hagood at UVM Memory Program, Alzheimer's Association, DAIL and VDH.**

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