

Improving Quality of Life for Patients with Dementia

Our Alzheimer's and Dementia Care team has received a grant to enable the implementation of the GUIDE (Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience) Model at the Cunningham Center for Compassionate Aging at YRMC. The program will begin July 1, 2025.

Instituted as a voluntary test model by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), GUIDE focuses on comprehensive, coordinated dementia care to improve quality of life for people with dementia, reduce strain on their unpaid caregivers, and enable them to safely remain in their homes as long as possible. It will achieve these goals through Medicare payments for a comprehensive package of care coordination and care management, caregiver education and support, as well as respite services for eligible patients with moderate to severe dementia.

A key element of the program is the inclusion of a Dementia Care Navigator to provide comprehensive and integrated care with the goals of improving quality of life for patients living with dementia and helping to reduce caregiver burden. A generous estate gift by former Yavapai Regional volunteer Larry Cunningham enabled the YRMC Foundation's Geriatric and Palliative Medicine Fund to support the Dementia Care Navigator for the first year startup costs.