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## News at FAMC

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### FAMC News

#### A. J. Merrick Manor Caregiver Receives National Certification in Dementia Care

06/05/2006

Fremont Area Medical Center is pleased to announce that Debi Filter, RN, recently earned national certification as a Dementia Practitioner from the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. Filter is a Resident Care Supervisor in A. J. Merrick Manor.

The term 'dementia' is used to describe the symptoms that occur when the brain is affected by specific diseases and conditions, including Alzheimer's disease, stroke and many other rarer conditions. There are over 40 types of dementia; Alzheimer's being the most common form, affecting an estimated 4.5 million Americans. The number of cases of Alzheimer's and other dementias continues to increase nationally, illustrating the importance of direct-care skills, education and sensitivity in the area of dementia care.

"Residents with dementia have a unique set of symptoms," says Alex Willford, Director of Post Acute Services, "among them, communication difficulties, which makes interaction difficult. Debi's expertise in dementia care will continue to help us develop and institute programs unique to these patients that will enhance their quality of life."

Some common signs of dementia: Recent memory loss; difficulty performing familiar tasks; problems with language; time and place disorientation; poor judgment; problems with abstract thinking; misplacing things; changes in mood; personality changes; and loss of initiative. Not everyone who has dementia will have all of these signs.

A. J. Merrick Manor is Fremont Area Medical Center's licensed 162-bed skilled care facility with private and semiprivate rooms and 24-hour nursing care. The facility is located in FAMC's main building, with immediate access available to all FAMC emergency, specialty, and ancillary services.

[Back](#)

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