**SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE**

**Certification template for Memory Care program**

(Insert media contact information)

**(Organization name) awarded Memory Care Certification from**

**The Joint Commission in collaboration with the Alzheimer’s Association**

(CITY, State, Date) – (Organization name) has earned Memory Care Certification (MCC) from The Joint Commission using standards developed in collaboration with the Alzheimer’s Association. The certification helps demonstrate (organization name’s) commitment to provide high quality and safe care for people living in skilled nursing facilities and nursing homes with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

MCC is an add-on program available to nursing care centers (NCC) accredited by The Joint Commission. It focuses on the care of patients and residents with memory-impacting conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias – enabling these residents to remain engaged in their environment at the level of their cognitive ability and to function at the highest level possible for as long as possible.

(Organization name) underwent a rigorous onsite survey on (date). During the visit, a Joint Commission surveyor evaluated compliance with related certification standards including (insert most relevant standards areas – care coordination, staff knowledge and competency, activity programming based on abilities, behavior management, and safe and supportive physical environment). During the survey, the surveyor conducted onsite observations and interviews.

Joint Commission standards for Memory Care Certification were developed in consultation with the Alzheimer’s Association, health care and measurement experts and providers, as well as patients, residents and their caregivers. The standards align with the [Alzheimer’s Association Dementia Care Practice Recommendations](https://www.alz.org/professionals/professional-providers/dementia_care_practice_recommendations)[[1]](#footnote-1) and focus on the care of patients and residents with memory-impacting conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias—enabling these patients sand residents to remain engaged in their environment and to function at the highest cognitive level possible.

“Memory Care Certification recognizes nursing care centers’ commitment to fostering continuous quality improvement in patient and resident safety and quality of care,” says Mark Pelletier, RN, MS, chief operating officer, Accreditation and Certification Operations, and chief nursing executive, The Joint Commission. “We commend (organization name) for using certification to reduce variation in its clinical processes and to strengthen its program structure and management framework for people with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias.”

(Insert quote from organization leader)

(Insert specific examples of how organization prepared for certification process and/or specific certification’s eligibility requirements)

For more information, please visit [The Joint Commission website](https://www.jointcommission.org/).

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(Insert organization boilerplate)

1. Alzheimer’s Association Dementia Care Practice Recommendations (2018). *Gerontologist*, 58: S1, S1–S9. doi:10.1093/geront/gnx182 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)