

For Immediate Release

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Maryland Department of Aging Partners with Maryland Information Network and Johns Hopkins University to Launch an Innovative Memory Care Resource to Empower Family Caregivers

BALTIMORE, MD – Today the Maryland Department of Aging and Johns Hopkins University announce the launch of the Johns Hopkins Memory Care Family Checklist, an innovative, evidence-based digital tool designed to help families caring for someone with cognitive challenges identify needs, access information, and connect with supports.

The Checklist, developed by the [Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing](#) in partnership with the [Maryland Department of Aging](#) and the [Maryland Information Network](#) (powering 211), addresses the growing need for practical support for family caregivers, a top priority of our state's multisector plan for aging, Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM). It is the first tool of its kind in Maryland, where clinically validated research is paired with community resources that are tailored to the user's individual needs.

"We must ensure our caregivers and their loved ones have every tool available to them, and this Checklist is one more critical resource we are proud to offer Marylanders," **said Governor Wes Moore**. "The collaboration between the Maryland Department of Aging, Johns Hopkins University, and the Maryland Information Network is a prime example of how Maryland-based innovation is not just about advancing technology. It's about improving lives and making an impact. Through LRM and partnerships like these, we are working to build a care infrastructure that leaves no one to face caregiving challenges alone."

Built on the evidence-based Johns Hopkins Dementia Care Needs Assessment tool, the Checklist guides users through a series of questions across key areas impacting the health and wellbeing of both the person living with memory loss and their caregiver. After completing the assessment, the system prioritizes needs and provides tailored information and resources through a Personalized Report that offers guidance on what to know, what to do, and where to find help. Because the Checklist is fully integrated with the extensive 211 Community Resource Database, the report links directly to Maryland Access Point resources, ensuring caregivers are connected with location-specific supports based on their unique circumstances and preferences.

"Caring for a loved one with memory loss can be a tough job. Family caregivers often find themselves having to provide not only day-to-day care, but also making complicated care decisions with little information while navigating unfamiliar care systems," **said Dr. Quincy Samus, Professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing**. "The Checklist translates decades of clinical know-how and science research into a free, private, and personalized tool that empowers caregivers with action-oriented information on how to support their loved ones while caring for themselves, and ways to find and connect with local resources."

The Johns Hopkins Memory Care Family Checklist joins other Maryland programs that support older adults and people with dementia including a free [AD:8 Cognitive Screening Tool](#) to compare signs of normal aging to potential signs of mild cognitive impairment, and training workshops for health care providers in dementia prevalent counties through the University of Maryland Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research (GGEAR) program and Project ECHO® (Extension for Community Healthcare

Wes Moore, Governor | Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor | Carmel Roques, Secretary

Outcomes). In addition, the Maryland Department of Health is currently developing an Alzheimer's Prevention Data Dashboard that will track the prevalence of dementia across the state.

"The Checklist aligns directly with LRM objectives to provide essential resources for our state's incredible caregivers," said **Maryland Secretary of Aging Carmel Roques**. "People who dedicate their lives to caring for loved ones with dementia face overwhelming challenges and often need guidance on the crucial first steps in developing a comprehensive care plan. This new tool can provide a starting point and practical steps to help families navigate their complex journey with confidence."

The Johns Hopkins Memory Care Family Checklist is endorsed by the [Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias Council](#) and the [Maryland Commission on Caregiving](#). Development of the Checklist was supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, ACL/HHS or the U.S. Government. Insights provided are intended to support early care planning and are not a replacement for clinical diagnostic evaluations or treatment plans.

The Johns Hopkins Memory Care Family Checklist is available now and can be accessed at marylandaccesspoint.info/memorycare.

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About the Partners

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing: A global leader in nursing education, research, and practice dedicated to advancing the health of individuals and communities: nursing.jhu.edu.

Maryland Information Network: Administers Maryland's 211 information and referral system for health and human services and connects people, services, and systems so that essential human needs can be met: Marylandaccesspoint.211md.org.

Maryland Department of Aging: Supports the state's growing population of older adults by advancing innovative approaches to aging and ensuring equitable resource access for healthy, socially connected, financially secure, and purposeful lives: Aging.Maryland.gov and LRM.Maryland.gov.



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