



Guidelines for Participants

Purpose of Community

The Alzheimer's Association online community is a place where people can come together to share questions, ideas, triumphs and struggles that revolve around Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The ALZConnected® community is a supportive environment where members can feel safe as they participate and find the support they need. We encourage you to be a part of this growing community of strength and support.

Peer Volunteers

The Peer Volunteer Program is designed to provide ALZConnected® with a group of seasoned community members to help welcome, guide and support all members of the community as well as notify the ALZConnected Moderator about possible violations and conflict. Peer Volunteers are helpful guides who have been in or are in your situation. They serve as volunteers to welcome you, to route you to the best place for your question or concern, to support you and to help keep ALZConnected an engaging and helpful online community.

The Association reserves the right to edit and/or delete posts and wants to ensure the integrity of this service. We can remove any content from your post if we believe the statement(s) violate our guidelines, terms or uses excessive Association resources and inhibits other member's ability to use ALZConnected to get information and support.

Therefore, use of this service is limited to participants who agree to adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Encourage Civility

ALZConnected invites and encourages a healthy exchange of opinions. If you disagree with a participant's post or opinion and wish to challenge it, do so with respect. The real objective of the ALZConnected community is to promote discussion and understanding, not to convince others your opinion is "right". Derogatory messages will not be tolerated. Name calling, insults, personal attacks and discriminatory comments are not appropriate and will not be tolerated. Posts containing any such content will be reported and will be subject to edits, deletions and/or suspension of accounts privilege.

2. Be supportive

ALZConnected is very active and its size is one of its strengths. As you post and read messages, please be aware that electronic messages, often written quickly, are easily misconstrued. Given the challenges of online communication, it is usually helpful to assume a positive intent. Please try to keep in mind that the main purpose of this online community is to provide support and education to those affected by Alzheimer's disease. Members should offer advice directly to the person who initiates the thread. Please respect the opinions of others and do not monopolize the conversation, and recognize that the diverse opinions add richness to the support provided to members.



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3. **Be relevant**

Keep your threads relevant to the Forum and keep your posts relevant to the topic being addressed. Off-Topic messages may be removed at the discretion of the Moderator.

4. **Be discreet**

For your safety and privacy, as well as that of your family and friends, the Alzheimer's Association discourages the posting of personal information such as names, emails, addresses or phone numbers. It is important to be aware that when you provide personal information in a posting on any message board, that information is available to any person who uses the message boards, and may be used by someone in a manner unintended by you.

5. **Do not solicit**

The Alzheimer's Association does not accept posts promoting for-profit endeavors or not-for profit solicitations of any kind. Users who would like to share information about clinical trial recruitment will be referred to TrialMatch® where participants can be matched to trials that might be appropriate for them.

6. **Use hyperlinks sparingly**

A hyperlink is a Website address that will lead you to a new Web page, often appearing as a highlighted or underlined address. Any posted hyperlink that is off-topic, including but not limited to the following; leading to a site that is unlawful; harmful; threatening; abusive; harassing; tortuous; defamatory; vulgar; obscene; libelous; invasive of another's privacy; hateful; or racially, ethnically, or otherwise objectionable or promoting a product or service for which a fee is charged will be removed. Decisions around the deletion and/or editing hyperlinks and removal from the community are at the discretion of the site administrators.

7. **Attribute your sources**

If you use material created by another author, please cite the author. The Alzheimer's Association is not responsible for the information posted in the message boards including, but not limited to, content, appropriate citations or use of copyrighted material.

8. **You are responsible**

Members are individually liable for anything they communicate on ALZConnected, including but not limited to defamatory, discriminatory, false or unauthorized information. The opinions, beliefs, and statements posted in any forum do not represent the opinions and beliefs of the Alzheimer's Association. The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to report any suspicions of harm to self or others as evidenced by member posts.

9. **Respect the Moderator Role**

The ALZConnected community is moderated by the Administrator and Peer Volunteers to help ensure an open, safe environment. Having a moderated community helps manage the site, keeps discussion moving smoothly, mediates unproductive distractions, and organizes the board to help members find what they need easily. If you have a question about a policy or moderator action, please address it using the [Contact Us](#) form.



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If you are not sure about whether a post fits within these guidelines, please contact the ALZConnected Administrators.

[Contact Us](#) forms and emails are responded to during regular business hours.

Any urgent concerns after hours and during weekends should be reported to the 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900. Please inform the Helpline staff of your online community concern and your call be handled as soon as possible.

[Click here](#) to review the full ALZConnected Terms & Conditions.