



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 27, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Mary Lou Brasee, VNA
402-930-4022 | mbrasee@vnaomaha.org

VNA Completes Program to Improve Geriatric Practice

Omaha, NE – May 27, 2008 – The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) announced they have successfully completed the Visiting Nurse Associations of America's (VNAA) Curricula for Homecare Advances in Management and Practice (CHAMP) Geriatric Medication Management course, a program that prepares frontline managers to integrate geriatric practice improvement into the daily work of the teams they manage.

Throughout the ten-month course, participants learned about key issues in geriatric medication management, team management, and quality improvement through face-to-face workshops, self-paced online learning, conference calls, and a faculty-moderated listserv. The VNA was part of the 2007 class comprised of 20 home healthcare agencies from across the country.

"CHAMP recognizes the key role of frontline managers in improving home healthcare," said Bridget Caniglia, Vice President of Home Care at the VNA. "The program delivers key clinical and leadership information for our managers, which they have been able to utilize with the clinicians they manage and lead. Our participation in this program has empowered our management team to institute change through quality improvement efforts, specifically focusing on best practices in relation to the medication management process for VNA clients."

CHAMP is an evidence-based practice improvement program that was developed by the VNAA and the Center for Home Care Policy and Research of the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, in conjunction with national experts in the home healthcare field. It is the first national initiative aimed at improving the capacity of frontline home healthcare managers and field nurses to provide "best practice" geriatric care to their older patients.

About the VNA

The VNA supports the dignity and well-being of Omaha and Council Bluffs residents by delivering the highest quality home care, IV therapy, hospice, and community/public health services wherever our clients call home. Our compassionate staff provides care to all individuals regardless of age, color, creed, neighborhood, or ability to pay. For more than 100 years, the VNA remains true to its mission to develop and maintain innovative programs that bring comfort and healing to the sick, frail, young, injured and the dying. Our overall goal is to provide peace of mind, quality of life, and independence for the client, their family, and their loved ones.

About VNAA CHAMP

CHAMP is a national initiative aimed at improving the quality of geriatric home healthcare services. Funded by a grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies, the program provides non-profit and for-profit homecare agencies with the tools and skills necessary to raise clinical standards and outcomes for geriatric patients. Two courses, Geriatric Medication Management and Geriatric Pain Management, have been designed and launched through a collaborative effort of the Visiting Nurse Associations of America and the Visiting Nurse Service of New York's Center for Home Care Policy and Research. For more information, please visit the CHAMP website: www.vnaa.org/champ.

#