



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VA North Texas HCS partnering in project to prevent pressure ulcers in hospitalized patients

DALLAS – VA North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS) has been selected to participate in a national research project aimed at preventing the occurrence of pressure ulcers in hospitalized patients nationwide.

According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) the prevention of pressure ulcers in hospitalized patients remains a national priority. Every year, tens of thousands of patients develop these mostly preventable skin lesions along with the accompanying pain, increased healthcare utilization, and associated risk for serious infections. Although the knowledge to prevent most pressure ulcers was disseminated by AHRQ in clinical guidelines published over 15 years ago, implementation of these best practices in the standard hospital setting remains elusive.

VANTHCS is among six hospitals, lead by Boston University, to join in a collaborative effort to develop tools necessary to guide hospitals nationally in achieving sustained improvements in pressure ulcer preventive care.

“It is an honor to partner with this unique team of healthcare organizations which have extensive expertise in critical content areas including pressure ulcers, quality improvement, organizational change, and program evaluation,” said [Sandra Y. Griffin, RN, BSN, MSA](#), VANTHCS Associate Director for Patient Care Services. “The major product of this project will be a compilation of the best practices identified and lessons learned into a final pressure ulcer

prevention manual, and will have far reaching effects on the care of hospitalized patients nationwide.”

In addition to VANTHCS, other healthcare organizations participating in this project include Denver Health, the primary teaching affiliate for the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center; Montefiore Medical Center, university hospital and academic medical center for the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York; Boston Medical Center, the main teaching site for Boston University Medical School; and the Deaconess Billings Clinic and St. Vincent Healthcare, both located in Billings, Montana.

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