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FutureCare *digest*

April 2012

FutureCare of North Carolina is a statewide non-profit leader in focusing on technology, innovation and best practices in long term care. Our mission is to enhance the quality of care for the elderly and disabled, with a special focus on skilled nursing care.

Next FutureCare Digest coming in May, featuring an innovative oral care program.

Skilled Nursing Care

Since 2007, FutureCare of North Carolina has sought to enhance and support skilled nursing care through various training programs. We have an innovative oral infection control program and simulated training model that are being implemented across the state. These programs were created to demonstrate the feasibility of integrating quality enhancement programs into skilled nursing facilities and have been well-received by care providers across the state.

Additionally, FutureCare purchased a high-fidelity mannequin simulator, with a generous grant from The Duke Endowment. This simulated training model is being embedded into community colleges, many of whom have purchased their own simulators in order to train the healthcare workforce.

With funding support from the NC Division of Health Service and Regulation, FutureCare has focused on increasing the self-efficacy of skilled nursing staff, medication error management, and oral infection control in residents.

FutureCare seeks to focus on practical and efficient ways to engage skilled nursing care providers so as not to disrupt the shift but to empower them to utilize cutting edge tools, resources and technologies that can enhance the care provided for residents every day.

FutureCare wants to learn more about what is working in your community, so that best practices in skilled nursing care, and long term care, can be disseminated across the state.



Our care providers face numerous challenges but also *many opportunities* in the face of healthcare reform, and financial and regulatory changes. FutureCare can help leverage these opportunities to create new ways to help North Carolinians navigate more easily through our state's long term health care delivery system.



ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LONG TERM CARE IN NC

Long term care facilities support an estimated **\$10 billion** of the state of North Carolina's economic activity, or **2.5%** of the state's economy. Our state gets **\$247 million** in tax revenues from long term care facilities in the state. **139,730 jobs** are directly related to long term care in North Carolina, which represents **2.7%** of the state's workforce.

Economic impact analysis: American Health Care Association, 2009

Innovative Technologies



FutureCare Sees Results From Medication Error Management Simulator Trainings

focus

FutureCare's Program Director, Mandy Richards, RN, MSN, is leading the second phase of a successful skilled nursing training program on medication error management. Building off the success from FutureCare's initial work to increase the self-efficacy of skilled nursing staff, Mandy has applied her professional skills as a nurse educator to utilize a patient simulator in various medication error case scenarios.



An integral component of these skill building training sessions includes improving communications between RN's and CNA's, using the SBAR tool.

Results from provider surveys demonstrate that these trainings dramatically impact the self-efficacy of the nursing staff to communicate

and understand adverse drug reactions. The essential skills emphasized in this training model are improving the efficiency and ease of with which nurses are able to respond to acute changes in conditions.

TELEMEDICINE IN GERIATRICS

With increasing internet connectivity across the globe, older adults have found a new use for telemedicine. When at home or in a care setting with limited access to a specialized provider, various conditions, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease can be managed remotely.

Please continue reading [here](#) for more information.



Featured in Photo:

Skilled Nursing Caregivers at Roanoke Landing Nursing & Rehab Center during Medication Error Management Training Led by Mandy Richards, RN, MSN FutureCare Program Director

Increased collaboration between nursing home RNs and LPNs will improve patient care

Research continues to demonstrate that trainings like the one featured above improve the collaboration among different nursing personnel within a care setting, and ultimately can impact patient care. For example, a recent study by a University of Missouri gerontological nursing researcher found that RN's and LPN's often differed in how they identified discrepancies. Recognizing the distinct differences between RNs and LPNs could lead to fewer medication errors and better patient care.

Full Article [Link](#) from the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*

It's Never 2 Late: IN2L

Jack York, CEO and co-founder of [IN2L \(It's Never 2 Late\)](#), built his company on the premise that it is never too late for people to learn technology that will enable them to meaningfully communicate their desires and engage in the world around them. While national organizations, like the Green House project, have verified the success of the IN2L technology by measuring and evaluating various resident outcomes, local skilled nursing care providers, like Clapp's Convalescent Nursing Home in Asheboro, have seen firsthand how technology like this enhances resident's quality of life. Residents can enjoy communicating with loved ones, and work on improving cognition and motor function simultaneously.

Jack York, CEO
It's Never 2 Late



Long Term Care *in the news*

WANTED:
HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS
To Care for Elderly

CMS Announces Initiative to Enhance Care Coordination Across Providers

On March 15, 2012, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced a Request for Proposals to increase care coordination between skilled nursing care providers and hospitals to better manage acute conditions for residents.

Non-profit and for-profit care providers are encouraged to apply.

- * **Letter of Intent Due: April 30th at 3:00 pm**
- * **Applications Due: June 14th, 2012**
- * *Please link to the full Funding Announcement [here](#).*



“Organizations like the IOM have warned of a looming scarcity of medical professionals equipped to deliver coordinated treatment of elderly health problems.”

[Link to The New York Times Article](#)

The Latest [North Carolina Medical Journal](#) Focuses on *Care Transitions*
In the January/ February 2012 Issue

Life Purpose May Be Key in Heart Attack Reduction Among Older Adults

Researchers Find That a Sense of Meaning Can Help Adults with Coronary Heart Disease Ward Off a Myocardial Infarction

Having a feeling of purpose in life may help to protect against heart attacks among older Americans with coronary heart disease. This new finding was published in the *Journal of Behavioral Medicine* article, “Purpose in Life and Reduced Risk of Myocardial Infarction among Older U.S. Adults with Coronary Heart Disease: A Two-Year Follow-Up.”

In the study, researchers surveyed more than 1,500 older adults with coronary heart disease and followed up after two years to investigate the association between purpose, which is typically conceptualized as a person’s sense of directedness and meaning in life, and the occurrence of a heart attack. The study found a significantly reduced risk of heart attack among participants who reported a higher sense of meaning. Link to full article [here](#).

Interested in Giving Back to Your Community and Supporting the Needs of North Carolina’s Elderly Population?

Senior Hunger is an issue in the spotlight of NC AARP

AARP NC is conducting Senior Hunger listening sessions with the seven Feeding America Food Banks in North Carolina to strategically plan, as partners, how we can implement programs for those seniors in need of food assistance. With the economic downturn, more and more seniors are making difficult decisions, like whether to eat, pay bills or buy medications.

If you have ideas on how to impact senior hunger in North Carolina, please contact sblack@aarp.org.



FutureCare of North Carolina

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FutureCare serves as the charitable foundation for the North Carolina Health Care Facilities Association.