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Riverside Care Center Partners with FMQAI to Reduce Pressure Ulcer Rates

Tampa, Fla. (June 3, 2009) – According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2004 data indicates that one in ten nursing home patients has a pressure ulcer at any given time. Pressure ulcers remain a serious and widespread health problem in nursing homes and an important and costly public health concern.

FMQAI, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for Florida began working with Riverside Care Center in September of 2007. The partnership focused on reducing high-risk pressure ulcers, one of the quality measures targeted for improvement by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) under the National Patient Safety Initiative. The goal was to decrease high-risk pressure ulcers by 50% within 90 days and to implement an action plan for continuous quality improvement in pressure ulcer reduction.

During visits to Riverside Care Center, FMQAI's main interventions were to provide education and guidance to facility staff on pressure ulcer management, root cause analysis, quality improvement program development, and control charting. Throughout the project, FMQAI shared tools on quality leadership, team building, and cultural change, which Riverside Care Center used to create a positive team environment and to involve staff in all QI projects being conducted within the facility.

The results, according to Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) Surface Area Reduction (SAR) data, indicated that Riverside Care Center decreased its pressure ulcer rate from 21.28% in Q3 2007 to 10.34% in Q2 2008. Riverside's 10.34% rate is lower than the Florida statewide pressure ulcer rate of 12.91%.

FMQAI continues to partner with Riverside Care Center during the 9th Statement of Work (SOW) (August 2008 – July 2011), focusing on High-Risk Pressure Ulcer reduction. As a participant in the 9th SOW initiatives, the facility attended the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Webinar

and completed the AHRQ “*Nursing Home Survey on Patient Safety*” with its employees. Riverside Care Center representatives also participated in FMQAI’s Pressure Ulcer Workshop in February 2009, where FMQAI shared tools, and conducted a session for both hospitals and nursing homes on improving handoff communication as it relates to skin integrity. FMQAI continues to provide quarterly data analysis, quality improvement monitoring, and technical assistance for Riverside Care Center.

For more information about FMQAI, the pressure ulcer project and additional healthcare quality improvement initiatives, please visit www.FMQAI.com.

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