



VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT, INC.

News Release

For more information:
Andrew Eaves
VP, Marketing & Development
One Long Wharf Drive
New Haven, CT 06511
aeaves@vnascc.org
203.859-6050-Direct

For Immediate Release

Home Care Patients Benefit from Advanced Wound Care

Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut Announces Wound Program Addition

New Haven, CT (May 18, 2009) – Wound care consultant Donna Czapiga RN, BS, ET, CWOCN has joined the newly expanded wound care program at Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut (VNA/SCC), a non-profit organization that fosters access to community health and home care services in Greater New Haven, Milford and The Valley.

Czapiga has extensive experience treating patients with non-healing wounds and ostomies in their homes. WOCN nurses use evidenced-based practice standards in relation to specific wound management issues. Czapiga also maintains a vast knowledge of the newest wound care products used to reduce pain, improve outcomes and decrease wound infections, collectively decreasing the need for emergent care due to deteriorating wound status.

“Non-healing wounds negatively affect the lives of many patients. The only way to enhance their quality of life is to heal their wounds as quickly as possible. As a WOCN nurse in home care, I can bring the latest wound care treatments directly to homebound patients to promote healing and provide a continuity of care between the physician, patient, and nurses.”

Since joining VNA/SCC, Czapiga has made a significant impact. Among her initial accomplishments, she established a wound competency training day which brought in vendors of advanced wound treatment products and provided 79 VNA/SCC nurses with interactive education, demonstrations and testing. In addition, she has established a formal pressure ulcer prevention program within the agency,

ensuring that every new patient admitted to service is assessed for risk of developing a pressure ulcer. She has also created an evidence-based formulary of wound care products for staff to use in the treatment of their patients.

Since obtaining her Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing (WOCN) certification in 1999, Czapiga has worked as a wound and ostomy nurse specialist at VNA Healthcare in Hartford, a nurse consultant for wound product manufacturers and a wound care specialist at Hartford Hospital, assisting with the hospital's pressure ulcer education.

Czapiga will make office visits to meet with physicians to discuss their patients' needs, as well as be available for home consultation to all of our nurses. She can be reached at 203.777.5521. Medical providers wishing to refer a patient to the VNA/SCC wound program can contact the Referral Department directly at 203.859.6070.

About The Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut

Founded in 1904, the VNA/SCC, the original VNA of New Haven, Milford and the Valley, is a state licensed, non-profit, community based home health care agency. The VNA/SCC staff consists of highly skilled nurses, therapists, medical social workers and home health aides. A vital resource to the communities it serves, the VNA/SCC provides a wide range of specialized clinical services, community programs, the Nurturing Families Network and subsidized care to those who are in need. The agency employs over 240 staff members, has an average daily census of over 1,000 patients and makes over 150,000 home visits per year. The agency is the founder of the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing. The VNA/SCC is supported in part by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, local United Way organizations, corporate sponsors and individual donors. The agency has a private-duty affiliate, CareSource. CareSource strives to maximize the quality of life for its clients and their caregivers in the home and health care settings. Their services include private duty nursing, homemakers, companions and live-in home health aides. Both VNA/SCC and CareSource are CHAP (Community Health Accreditation Program) accredited. To learn more about the organizations, log onto www.vnascc.org or www.caresourceinc.org.

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