

# NEWS RELEASE



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## VNS Heart Program Attracts National Attention

BRIDGEPORT—A heart disease management program created and piloted by staff of the Visiting Nurse Services of Connecticut has attracted national attention for its innovation and clinical outcomes. VNS representatives will be appearing at two national conferences later this year to present the program and talk about its results.

A multi-disciplinary task force of VNS staff gathered last year to create a new system for helping patients with heart failure symptoms to better manage their conditions. The group used the results of new research from the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology to develop the program focusing on pharmacologic management, diet, fluid intake and patient activity. A four month pilot last summer showed significant results including:

- A 10 percent reduction in patient re-hospitalizations;
- An overall improvement in job satisfaction among nurses participating in the program, and;
- An overall decrease in the cost of caring for each patient.

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**Visiting Nurse Services of Connecticut is one of the state's largest non-profit home health care organizations, serving residents of 50 cities and towns in Fairfield, New Haven and Litchfield Counties. VNS provides a comprehensive range of services including skilled nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, medical social work and home health aide assistance. VNS Specialty Services include Hi-Tech Home IV Therapy, Wound Care, Psychiatric Nursing, Pain Management, Palliative Care, Nutritional Counseling, Elder Care Planning. The VNS Hospice at Home Program™ provides comprehensive home care for terminally ill patients and their families. VNS affiliate, Partners in Care, offers live-in and sleep-in home health aide services as well as companion services for those who are housebound. For more information, visit our website at [www.vnsct.org](http://www.vnsct.org).**

As a result of the pilot effort, the program, which has been named “HeartWays” for its focus on new clinical pathways to more effectively manage heart disease in patients, has now been implemented across VNS’ 50 town service area.

Also, VNS staff have been invited to the Rutgers School of Nursing’s Computer and Technology Conference in San Francisco and the National Association of Home Care’s Annual Meeting in Denver to present details of the program and its results.

Participating in development of the program were VNS staff members Mary Linda Rivera, Carmen Adams, Susan Masciangioli, Roger Moscatel, Monica Sartor, Patricia Slavin, Sheryl Williams, Karin Speer and Cynthia Theodoseau and June O’Connell.

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