

In-Touch *Assisted Living*

July 2009

Registered Nurse Role in Assisted Living

by Theresa Pichelmeyer, Administrator - Assisted Living

Ever since I made the announcement about Pat Hoogervorst (Clinical Services Director), taking on new responsibilities and adding additional RNs, there have been lots of questions like: Is Pat leaving? Will we be able to talk to Pat in her new role? Will there be a nurse available to me? In response to these questions, I thought it would be a good opportunity to talk about the current and future role of the Registered Nurse in Valley VNA Assisted Living.



Did you know that Assisted Living (AL) facilities are not required to have a nurse on site? Some ALs have a nurse who may come and review the resident's medications on a periodic basis, others may have a nurse available on call or during certain times of the day or week.

At Valley VNA, we have a strong belief in Person Centered Care. Nurses have an important role in this process. The nurses are available to evaluate changes in condition noted by staff, be a liaison between the resident and their physician, and answer medical/nursing related questions - "Mary is having a lot of congestion, should she go to the doctor?" or "Mom seems to be more forgetful, do you think it has

anything to do with her medication?". Having our Nurses conduct the Individual Care Plan (ISP) reviews with residents/family ensures that all needs - physically, socially, emotionally and medically are addressed.

Pat's new role will allow her to focus on quality improvement, making sure that our commitment to Person Centered Care is met. In addition, her role will include the initial admission process for new residents. Pat will still be visible and a resource as needed!

We plan to have nursing presence throughout the day and into the evening Monday through Friday. These nurses will also be on call on the weekends as a resource to staff. Right now, we are in the hiring process and as they come on board, we will introduce them to you!

If you have any questions, please contact me.

The Annual Resident and Family Picnic is almost here!

Don't forget, the annual picnic is **July 15th**. If you haven't already called to RSVP, please do before July 13th - 920-727-5544.

It's a great time for all - see you there!



Please support the **Alzheimer's Association's Memory Walk 2009** on Saturday, Sept. 19th at the Fox Cities Stadium. Walk on Valley VNA's team, organize your own team or volunteer. To learn more about participating in this important event, please call Bill Mauthe (Valley VNA's Life Enrichment Coordinator) - 920-727-5544.

