

THE CENTER FOR HOME CARE POLICY & RESEARCH AT VNS HEALTH

TABLE: 2024 ACTIVE PROJECTS

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY NAME OF PROJECT) – AS OF 10/31/2024

Project Name		Funder	VNS Health Research Staff	Main Focus Area	Project Dates
1	<p>AdvantAge Initiative</p> <p>Description: AdvantAge is an ongoing Research Center initiative. Started in 1999, it provides tools and methods to help communities measure and improve their elder-friendliness. It includes a customized survey of older adults in a defined community and a process for interpreting results of the survey and using them to drive change. AdvantAge has been used in over 60 communities nationwide (including NYC). The Research Department “motto” (Data—Information—Action) came from the AdvantAge Initiative project. The most recent initiative with funding from the Fan Fox and Leslie R Samuels Foundation was a survey of older adults in Central Harlem.</p>	Originally grant funded; now contracts with community-based organizations and a grant from the Fan Fox & Leslie R Samuels Foundation, Inc.	Oberlink Stern	Supporting Communities	Ongoing
2	<p>Beatrice Renfield Nursing Research Program</p> <p>Description: The main activities funded with foundation support are promoting nurse scientist and nurse involvement in research.</p>	Beatrice Renfield Foundation	Bowles Topaz	Quality & Outcomes	06/01/03-ongoing
3	<p>CAPABLE: Reducing disability following hospital discharge in vulnerable older adults: the CAPABLE intervention</p> <p>Description: This study tested the effectiveness of the CAPABLE program, which combines evidence-based nursing, occupational therapy, and handyman components to help diverse older adults function at home and save our nation costly nursing home care.</p>	National Institute on Aging (NIA); <i>subcontract with Johns Hopkins School of Nursing</i>	Bowles Shah Sridharan Onorato Vergez Vasquez	Quality & Outcomes	09/01/17-04/30/24
4	<p>Center Pilot: REFLECTION (identify pREfERENCE of paLLiative care through ConversaTION)</p> <p>Description: This study aimed to identify palliative care (PC) preference contents in patient-case manager verbal communications; and to develop and test prediction algorithms to identify patients’ PC preferences.</p>	National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR); <i>subcontract with Columbia University</i>	Topaz Sridharan Vergez McDonald	Quality & Outcomes	06/01/22-05/31/24
5	<p>Characterizing and Predicting Patient Trajectories After Hospice Live Discharge among Older Adults with Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias</p> <p>Description: This study seeks to characterize trajectories of care transition, functional decline, and healthcare utilization after hospice live discharge.</p>	National Institute on Aging (NIA) <i>Subcontract with Weill Cornell Medicine</i>	Ryvicker Kapela	Quality & Outcomes	09/01/24-08/31/25

6	<p>Consumer Directed Personal Care in Home-Based Long-Term Care: Trends in Use and Client Characteristics</p> <p>Description: The project provided foundational knowledge about consumer-directed care among a highly diverse sample of older adults and inform efforts to provide home-based long-term care to people regardless of care needs, cognitive status, living arrangement, or caregiving supports.</p>	National Institutes of Health Pepper Center	Russell Burgdorf Sridharan	Supporting Communities	07/01/23-06/30/24
7	<p>Developing and Piloting a Multi-Component Technology-Based Care Intervention</p> <p>Description: This study seeks to develop, and pilot test a multi-component technology-based care intervention, i.e., Improving Home hospice Management of End-of-life issues through technology (I-HoME), that focuses on assessing and addressing patient symptoms and caregiver burden in the home hospice setting.</p>	National Institute on Aging (NIA); <i>subcontract with Weill Cornell Medicine</i>	Shah Vasquez Kapela King	Quality & Outcomes	05/01/20-04/30/25
8	<p>Development of a Screening Algorithm for Timely Identification of Patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment and Early Dementia in Homecare</p> <p>Description: This study seeks to develop a mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and early-stage dementia (ED) screening algorithm using linguistic and acoustic features extracted from patients' verbal communications and electronic health record data.</p>	National Institute on Aging (NIA); <i>Subcontract with Columbia University</i>	McDonald Spens	Quality & Outcomes	09/01/24-06/30/27
9	<p>Disparities in Infection in Home Health and Patients/Caregivers' Perceptions (Dis-Infection in HHC)</p> <p>Description: This multisite study is examining socio-economic disparities in infection events and will explore infection prevention and control related knowledge, attitudes, and practices among home healthcare patients and their caregivers. The final year of this study includes the pilot testing of an intervention to improve infection control practices.</p>	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); <i>subcontract with Columbia University</i>	McDonald Russell Barrón-Vayá Sridharan Onorato Vergez Kapela Vasquez Flaherty	Quality & Outcomes	09/03/21-08/31/26
10	<p>Effects of Family Caregiver Availability and Capacity on Home Health Care for Older Adults with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias</p> <p>Description: Aims: 1. Characterize caregiver role (including types of assistance provided, availability and capacity) during HH for patients with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD); 2. Determine the impact of caregiver availability and capacity on home health care delivery for patients with ADRD; 3. Assess the impact of caregiver availability and capacity on home health outcomes for patients with ADRD.</p>	National Institute on Aging (NIA)	Burgdorf Barrón-Vayá	Quality & Outcomes	04/15/23-03/31/25

11	<p>ENGAGE-D: DEsigNing Culturally Sensitive Care ManaGement for Hospice TrAnsitions for Diverse Persons LivinG with AdvancEd Dementia</p> <p>Description: The aim of this study is to design and pilot a culturally sensitive care management intervention to improve hospice transitions for diverse persons living with advanced dementia.</p>	National Institute on Aging (NIA); <i>subcontract with New York University</i>	McDonald Vergez	Quality & Outcomes	04/01/24-03/31/28
12	<p>Enhancing Dementia Instruction and Toolkit in Home Hospice Care (EDITH-HC)</p> <p>Description: This research study is intended to improve the quality of care provided to home hospice persons living with dementia (PLwD) and their family caregiver (FCG). The purpose of this study is to develop and preliminary test an educational training program and FCG assessment tool for hospice nurses and social workers (clinicians) to improve clinician knowledge about end-of-life care for PLwD and to improve support for and reduce burden among FCG of home hospice PLwD.</p>	National Institute on Aging (NIA); <i>subcontract with Rutgers, The State University</i>	McDonald Kapela Vasquez	Quality & Outcomes	09/01/21-08/31/25
13	<p>Gender Affirmation, Quality of Life, and Access to Care: A Mixed-Method Longitudinal Investigation</p> <p>Description: Gender minorities experience disparities in physical and mental health. Gender-affirming healthcare has the potential to mitigate these disparities, yet this population faces multiple barriers to accessing competent care. This mixed-method, longitudinal cohort study examines changes in psychosocial adjustment and health-related quality of life after gender-affirming surgery, informing the development of future home- and community-based healthcare interventions to promote their health and wellbeing.</p>	National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR); <i>collaborating with University of Pennsylvania & Columbia University</i>	Ryvicker Bowles Barrón-Vayá Cheruvillil Sridharan Kapela Jones	Supporting Communities	07/01/21-04/30/26
14	<p>“HEAR-HEARTFELT” (Identifying the risk of Hospitalizations or Emergency department visits for patients with HEART Failure in managed long-term care through vErbal communicaTion)</p> <p>Description: The aim of this project is to provide mentorship to a junior nurse researcher and to examine whether audio-recorded verbal telephone communication can be utilized to improve risk prediction.</p>	National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR); <i>subcontract with the University of Pennsylvania</i>	Topaz Sridharan	Quality & Outcomes	09/01/23-08/30/25
15	<p>Helping NYC LGBTQ+ Older Adults Age in Place</p> <p>Description A series of focus groups were conducted in NYC's five boroughs with LGBTQ+ older adults to learn about their lived experiences of aging to help build equity and support for older LGBTQ+ older adults.</p>	VNS Health (Intramural)	Oberlink Stern	Supporting Communities	07/01/23-02/29/24

16	<p>Homecare CONCERN: Building risk models for preventable hospitalizations and emergency department visits in home care</p> <p>Description: This study will further develop and validate a preventable hospitalization or ED visit risk prediction model (Homecare-CONCERN). Traditional (time varying Cox regression) and cutting-edge time-sensitive analytical methods (Deep Survival Analysis and Long-Short Term Memory Neural Network) for risk model development will be applied. In addition, the team will prepare Homecare-CONCERN for clinical trial via pilot testing.</p>	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	Topaz Bowles McDonald Barrón-Vayá Sridharan Evans Kapela Davoudi	Quality & Outcomes	09/30/20–07/31/25
17	<p>Identifying and Reducing Stigmatizing Language in Home Healthcare: the ENGAGE Study</p> <p>Description: Stigmatizing language in the clinical notes negatively affects the quality of patient care and the attitudes of clinicians who view the notes. This project aims to design and pilot-test a technology-driven system, ENGAGE, that will help to identify and reduce the use of stigmatizing language among home healthcare nurses. Achieving this goal will reduce racial biases and improve the quality of care for patients treated in home healthcare settings.</p>	National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD); <i>subcontract with Columbia University School of Nursing</i>	Topaz McDonald Sridharan Gross	Quality & Outcomes	12/01/23-11/30/28
18	<p>I-TRANSFER-HF: Improving TRansitions ANd OutcomeS for Heart FailurE Patients in Home Health Care: A Type 1 Hybrid Effectiveness/Implementation Trial</p> <p>Description: This study will test an intervention called Improving TRansitions ANd OutcomeS for Heart FailurE Patients in Home Health CaRe (I-TRANSFER-HF), comprised of a first HHC nursing visit on the day of or day after hospital discharge with a total of three or more nursing visits the first week, <u>and</u> an outpatient visit within 7 days of discharge. The real-world effectiveness of this intervention for reducing 30-day readmissions in a national, pragmatic, multi-center, Type 1 Hybrid stepped wedge cluster randomized trial in partnership with 4 geographically diverse dyads of hospitals and HHC agencies (“hospital-agency dyad”) compared to usual care will be examined.</p>	National Heart, Lung Blood Institute (NHLBI); <i>subcontract with Weill Cornell Medicine</i>	Bowles McDonald Ryvicker Barrón-Vayá Sridharan	Quality & Outcomes	09/01/23-08/30/28
19	<p>IMPACT Collaboratory: Barriers to Hospice Care Transitions for Diverse Persons Living with Dementia</p> <p>Description: Aims: 1. Explore perspectives of care partners, HHC staff and providers about barriers to hospice transitions for racially and ethnically diverse PLWD; 2. Survey care partners, HHC staff, and providers about key components of a transitional care checklist intervention that will guide hospice transitions for diverse PLWD; 3. Design a novel culturally sensitive hospice</p>	National Institute on Aging (NIA); <i>subcontract with New York University</i>	McDonald Vergez	Quality & Outcomes	01/01/23-12/31/24

	transitions checklist to guide transitional care to hospice from HHC for PLWD and their care partners.				
20	<p>The Impact of COVID-19 on End-of-Life Care for Vulnerable Populations</p> <p>Description: The major goal of the study is to examine the impact of public health containment and mitigation policies implemented during the COVID-19 crisis in the United States on the experiences of patients at the end of life and their families.</p>	National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR); <i>subcontract with Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai</i>	McDonald Barrón-Vayá	Quality & Outcomes	07/12/21-03/31/25
21	<p>Improving Care Transitions and Self-care among Informal Caregivers of Hospitalized Older Adults through Digital Tools</p> <p>Description: The primary aim of this study is to compare the efficacy of the Virtual Caregiver Coach for You (ViCCY) intervention compared to digital health information alone in improving self-care of caregivers of hospitalized community-dwelling older adults with multiple chronic conditions who transition from hospital to home.</p>	National Institute on Aging (NIA); <i>subcontract with University of Pennsylvania</i>	Riegel	Quality & Outcomes	09/01/23-05/31/28
22	<p>Improving Self-Care of Informal Caregivers of Adults with Heart Failure</p> <p>Description: This randomized controlled trial tests the efficacy of a virtual support health coaching intervention compared to a health information control group in improving self-care, decreasing stress, and improving coping and health status of informal caregivers of adults with heart failure. A secondary aim is to estimate cost and cost-effectiveness of the intervention. An exploratory aim is to explore the effect of caregiver outcomes of patient outcomes.</p>	National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR); <i>subcontract with University of Pennsylvania</i>	Riegel	Quality & Outcomes	03/01/23-11/30/24
23	<p>Improving TRANSITIONS and outcomeS of sEpsis suRvivors (I-TRANSFER)</p> <p>Description: The purpose of this study is to advance the science of transitional care for sepsis survivors, the study will test the effectiveness of the I-TRANSFER home health care early visit protocol intervention in the real world and study its implementation with a pragmatic, multi-center, Type 1 hybrid, stepped wedge randomized trial in partnership with five dyads of acute care and HHC providers (ten clinical sites in total).</p>	National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR); <i>subcontract with University of Pennsylvania</i>	Bowles Barrón-Vayá Ryvicker	Workforce Training/ Quality & Outcomes	12/01/20-11/30/25
24	<p>Incongruent Identity Documents (IIDs) Among Transgender and Nonbinary Populations and Structural Implications for Access to Social Security Benefits, Disability Insurance and Healthcare</p> <p>Description: This study explores the impact of incongruence in official identity documents for transgender and nonbinary (TGNB) people.</p>	New York Retirement & Disability Research Center	Cheruvillil Ryvicker	Quality & Outcomes	10/01/24-09/30/25

25	<p>Investigating Disparities in Home Health Access and Quality for Medicare Beneficiaries with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Following Recent Payment System Revisions</p> <p>Description: The goal of the proposed research is to assess PDGM's impact on community entry to home health access, care delivery, and outcomes for community-living older adults with ADRD.</p>	National Institute on Aging (NIA)	Burgdorf Barrón-Vayá	Quality & Outcomes	09/01/23-08/31/25
26	<p>Leveraging Home Health Aides to Improve Outcomes in Heart Failure</p> <p>Description: The goal of the project is to develop, and pilot test a novel intervention for home health aides caring for patients with heart failure, in order to avert avoidable readmissions and improve patient outcomes. VNS Health investigators are advisors to this study and will help with the logistics of pilot testing of the intervention.</p>	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI); <i>subcontract with Weill Medical College of Cornell University</i>	Feldman McDonald Vergez Sridharan	Workforce Training/ Quality & Outcomes	12/15/19-11/30/24
27	<p>Patterns & Preferences of Home-Based Service Use for Persons with Dementia</p> <p>Description: The overall objective of this study is to describe Home and Community Based Service use across the spectrum of payers and providers for people with dementia and identify individual and cultural factors associated with variation in use.</p>	Alzheimer's Association	Burgdorf Russell Vergez	Quality & Outcomes	12/01/23-11/30/25
28	<p>A Pragmatic Randomized Control Trial of Nurse-Delivered Brief Meaning Centered Psychotherapy for Homebound Palliative Care Patients</p> <p>Description: The primary aim of the proposed project is to determine if homecare nurses, the frontline clinicians who typically serve this vulnerable patient population, can effectively deliver meaning centered psychotherapy for palliative care and reduce psychological suffering in their advanced cancer patients.</p>	National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR); <i>subcontract with Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research</i>	McDonald Onorato Kapela	Quality & Outcomes	09/01/21-07/31/25
29	<p>PREVENT: Improving patient prioritization during hospital-homecare transition: A mixed methods study of a clinical decision support tool</p> <p>Description: This study was a rigorous effectiveness trial evaluating an innovative clinical decision support system (CDSS) called PREVENT, PREVENT assists home care agency schedulers and nurses in prioritizing patients in need of immediate first homecare nursing visits.</p>	National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR); <i>subcontract with Columbia University School of Nursing</i>	Topaz McDonald Bowles Barrón-Vayá Sridharan Onorato King	Quality & Outcomes	09/25/19-04/30/24
30	<p>A speech-processing algorithm for automatic screening of Black patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and early dementia (ED) in the home healthcare setting</p> <p>Description:</p>	National Institute on Aging (NIA); <i>subcontract with UPenn a2Collective AI/Tech + Aging</i>	Topaz Zolnoori Spens	Quality & Outcomes	06/01/23-05/31/25

	The primary goal of this proposed study is to utilize the routinely generated data in the HHC setting, including African American patient-nurse verbal communication and the Outcome and assessment Information Set (OASIS – a federally required assessment of patients admitted to HHC), to develop a screening algorithm for timely identification of MCI-ED patients.				
31	Supporting Dementia Caregivers During Medicare Home Health: Developing the DECLARE Needs Assessment Intervention Description: Family caregivers often act as an extension of the care team during home health care for older adults, yet their capacity and needs are not systematically assessed which limits their access to necessary support. This proposal would develop, refine, and pilot test a self-assessment intervention for the home health setting to improve communication and support between the care team and family caregivers to patients with Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias. Proposed research and training activities would support the career development of Dr. Julia Burgdorf, whose career goal is to improve home- and community-based care for older adults by developing pragmatic clinical interventions to advance provider-led engagement and support of family caregivers.	National Institute on Aging (NIA)	Burgdorf Vergez	Quality & Outcomes	06/01/23-02/29/28
32	Translating Data Science into Palliative Care Practice for Persons Living with Dementia Description: This research study is intended to 1) better understand seriously ill adults’ and their family care partners’ (FCP), particularly persons living with dementia (PLwD), barriers to accepting community-based palliative care (CBPC); 2) develop an intervention to address barriers; and 3) pilot test whether the intervention has an impact on CBPC uptake among patients who previously refused CBPC.	National Institute on Aging (NIA); <i>subcontract with UPenn</i>	Bowles King	Quality & Outcomes	10/01/23-09/30/24
33	Translating Data Science to Palliative Care Practice: Improving Integration of a Claims-Based Algorithm and Palliative Care Uptake Description: Aims: 1. Engage palliative care (PC) experts to document their decision-making processes and identify factors important in determining PC eligibility and useful formats for integrating algorithm results into CBPC practice; 2. Empirically test if feedback from Aim 1 is consistent with current practice using multivariate logistic regression analyses.;3. Complement existing 12-month mortality algorithm with a second model that discriminates between geriatric members and those needing palliative care.	Rutgers University (NJ ACTS Pilot Program); <i>subcontract with Rutgers University</i>	Bowles King	Quality & Outcomes	03/01/23-02/29/24

34	<p>Using automated speech processing to improve identification of risk for hospitalizations and emergency department visits in home healthcare</p> <p>Description: The goal of this study is to refine and finalize an automated speech processing system that uses patient-nurse audio recorded communication to improve identification of risk for hospitalizations and emergency department (ED) visits. We will audio-record regular nurse visits, extract and examine features that may serve as indicators of risk and develop a prediction risk model. In future work, this risk model can be integrated into home healthcare workflow to trigger timely and personalized alerts about concerning patient risk.</p>	National Institute on Aging (NIA); <i>subcontract with Columbia University School of Nursing</i>	Topaz McDonald Onorato Vergez	Quality & Outcomes	06/15/23-02/29/28
35	<p>VNS Health Veterans Outreach Project</p> <p>Description: The Research Center's role in this project is to provide data collection support and conduct an evaluation of the Veteran Liaison Program, which strives to expand healthcare access to veterans and their families; assist veterans in accessing benefits and community resources to ensure they are receiving the care and services to which they are entitled; help bridge the transition into the community from in-patient facility settings; and provide educational sessions for nurses, social workers, and home health aides to sensitize them to the special needs of veteran patients.</p>	Mother Cabrini Health Foundation	Stern	Supporting Communities	01/01/20-12/31/24