



NEWS

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ABRAMSON CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE DEPRESSION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PILOTED IN 40 NURSING HOMES ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

The Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life and its Polisher Research Institute recently launched a Depression Quality Improvement Collaborative in partnership with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Association for Healthcare Quality (SPAHQ) for 40 nursing homes across the Commonwealth.

The public health goal of the Collaborative is to improve the quality of life of nursing home residents through the early detection and treatment of depression. The Collaborative is modeled after the Abramson Center's "Promoting Positive Well-Being" depression management program, which has over three years of data supporting its efficacy in reducing the percentage of residents at risk for depression through regular administration of depression screenings, individualized interventions, and monitoring resident response to interventions.

Depression is a significant concern in the nursing home setting, where the estimated rate of depressive symptoms among residents is between 22 and 40 percent. In addition to psychological suffering, research shows that nursing home residents who are depressed are at increased risk for disability, illness, injury, hospitalization, and death.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Association for Healthcare Quality is dedicated to improving the quality of healthcare and promoting the professional growth and development of healthcare professionals by advancing the practice of quality management in healthcare organizations throughout the Southeastern Pennsylvania region.

The Abramson Center for Jewish Life is a nonprofit provider of services to seniors that include nursing care, personal care and independent living apartments, post-hospital transitional care, hospice, home care, adult day care counseling and referral, as well as aging research. Located in Horsham Township, Montgomery County Pa., the Abramson Center serves seniors throughout Greater Philadelphia.

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