

# Homewood Joins Effort in Detecting Depression

Homewood at Martinsburg is one of 40 nursing homes across the Commonwealth participating in the Pennsylvania Quality Improvement Depression Collaborative sponsored by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Association for Healthcare Quality (SPAHQ) and the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life and its Polisher Research Institute.

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 more than 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 non-profit 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 and aging research. Located in Horsham Township, Montgomery County, the Abramson Center serves seniors throughout Greater Philadelphia.

