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# Respite **RCPN** News

A Newsletter for Members of the Respite Care Providers' Network

## RCPN Steering Committee Meets in Nashville



The [RCPN Steering Committee](#) and others from the Medical Respite Standards Development Task Force met in Nashville, Tennessee, on October 7 and 8, 2014 to discuss policy matters impacting medical respite care and to review public comments received in response to the [proposed standards for medical respite care](#). The group plans to make a revised edition of the proposed standards available in the coming months. Interested in joining the RCPN Steering Committee? A call for nominations will appear in the next issue of Respite News.

## Medicare Funding Threatened after Hospital Inappropriately

## Duke University Article Sheds Light on Care Transitions for Homeless Individuals in the Absence of Medical Respite Care

A [recent study](#) published in the Journal of Community Health Nursing explores post-hospital care transitions in the absence of a formal medical respite program. The study describes the evolution of “patchwork respite” or the use of informal linkages and resources to accommodate post-hospital discharge needs. The study found that patchwork respite arrangements resulted in suboptimal placement and safety and legal concerns.

Biederman, D. J., Gamble, J., Manson, M., and Taylor, D. (2014). [Assessing the Need for a Medical Respite: Perceptions of Service Providers and Homeless Persons](#). Journal of Community Health Nursing, 31(3), 145-156.

## Circle the City Receives \$2 Million to Add a Primary Care Center for Medical Respite Patients



## Discharges Patient to a Homeless Shelter

Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Texas, is under close scrutiny by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) after discharging a patient to a homeless shelter when the patient was recovering from a recent suicide attempt and numerous fractures. CMS officials sent a letter to Parkland Hospital stating that the hospital risked losing \$400 million in Medicare funding unless corrective actions are taken. Medical respite programs should consider how partnerships with local hospitals can help hospitals meet the terms and conditions for participating in the federal Medicare program.

## Media Spotlight



The Inland Northwest Transitional Respite Program in Spokane, Washington, was recently awarded the Providence Health Care Mission Leadership Award. The program, which started only a couple of years ago with one bed, has expanded to 21 beds after demonstrating significant impact on the quality of life for individuals experiencing homelessness and for its impact on the health care system. Watch the video.



The Bob and Renee Parsons Foundation, the philanthropic organization of GoDaddy founder Bob Parsons and his wife, granted \$2 million to Circle the City, Arizona's first medical respite center. The gift will be used to launch a new primary health care center that will operate in tandem with medical respite services. The new Parsons Family Health Center will allow Circle the City to serve an additional 3,500 patients annually. Learn more.

## Additional Resources to Support Medical Respite Programs

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council offers trainings and technical assistance on medical respite program operations and administration. You can find further resources on our medical respite web page. Let us know how we can help you.

**National Health Care for the Homeless Council**  
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