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## In this issue:



Good Day!

Tradition can be a very good thing. Just consider the winning tradition established by the New England Patriots, furthered after their most improbable and recent Super Bowl victory in Houston a week ago. I know most of you have time-honored traditions with family and friends and, most likely, with your colleagues across Care New England.

One tradition I am truly proud of is that of our CNE Care Awards. Eighteen years strong, the Care Awards have long recognized excellence in collaboration, teamwork, vision and best practice. The Care Awards present an opportunity for recognition of our colleagues and the out-of-the-box thinkers among us. It's an opportunity for creativity to shine and, for me, one of the best ways to encourage creativity is through teamwork.

It's that team mentality that leads to great achievement, whether that is on the field, in the classroom or, in our case, in the health care setting. Year after year, I am amazed at the contributions our staff has made to improve, enhance and optimize our workplace. You all do great work and that work deserves to be recognized!

Consider just a few of the past winning projects we have recognized at the Care Awards: Best Fed to Baby Friendly, My Day—Online Sobriety Calendar, Unique Needs—Tailoring Care To An Ever-Changing Population, and Creating Care Teams. These are but a few of the many innovative and truly thoughtful projects that have been woven into the fabric of our work at the operating unit level and across the system. They have had a positive impact on patient experience, quality outcomes, and in streamlining processes. Sometimes, it's as simple as finding smarter and easier ways to do our work!



*continued*

The Care Awards provide an opportunity for us to come together and recognize the projects and the brainpower behind them, but it is also a time to share the collective energy of teamwork, innovation and creativity.

Once again, Kathy Lavoie, CNE director of organizational development, and her multidisciplinary team, are coordinating applications, judging, and the recognition ceremony, ensuring that the 2017 Care Awards will be exceptional.

To highlight your team's great work, visit: <http://carenet/carenet/careawards/index.cfm>. Please mark your calendars now as the deadline of March 6 is quickly approaching. Remember, you must complete an online application and submit a team photo to be considered for judging. Honorees will be recognized on June 6 at 2:30 p.m., in Ray Hall on the Butler Campus.

I encourage you all to talk with your co-workers, managers and workgroups. Take stock of the work you've done this past year and consider the impact it has had. Was it unique, leading-edge, or maybe just great? If so, please make sure to get your team together and submit your application today for the 2017 Care Awards!

I hope you have a great week ahead!

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe  
President and Chief Executive Officer



## Research Published in *Genetics in Medicine*



A DNA-based prenatal blood test used to screen pregnancies for Down syndrome and similar chromosome abnormalities in high-risk women has moved a step closer to use in the general pregnancy population. Researchers at Women & Infants Hospital have published a study in *Genetics in Medicine* showing that this non-invasive test can be effectively and appropriately offered to all pregnant women, regardless of maternal age or risk factors, through primary obstetrical care providers.

The research, "The clinical utility of DNA-based screening for fetal aneuploidy by primary obstetrical care providers in the general pregnancy population," was led by Glenn Palomaki, PhD, Edward M. Kloza, MS, CGC, Elizabeth Eklund, MS, and Geralyn Messerlian, PhD, of the Division of Medical Screening and Special Testing in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, as well as maternal-fetal medicine specialist Barbara M. O'Brien, MD, formerly of Women & Infants. This independent study was funded by a grant from Natera, Inc., and the DNAFirst test was primarily based on Natera's Panorama offering. "We already know that DNA-based screening is highly effective.

This study enabled us to look at its implementation in the general population to determine how best to educate professionals and patients," said Dr. Palomaki. "We developed patient education materials and trained the providers on speaking with their patients about the DNAFirst test. The providers and patients were then surveyed concerning their knowledge about the test, how they made their decision about the test, and their overall satisfaction.

"Ultimately, we found that the materials were highly effective for both the providers and the patients. The current study results will be utilized by policy-makers, professional organizations and insurance providers when deciding how and to whom DNA-based prenatal screening will be offered."



## Care New England providers lead geriatric education webinar

On February 21, Ana Tuya Fulton, MD, FACP, chief of geriatrics at Care New England and medical director for [Integra Community Care Network](#), and Rachel Roach, nurse practitioner of geriatrics and palliative care for Integra Community Care Network, will lead an interactive webinar aimed to enhance geriatric abilities amongst health care providers and professionals, specifically in the care of older populations with dementia.



The webinar, “Decision Making in Dementia: Understand ‘What Matters Most’ at all Stages of Health,” is the third course in a five-part education series for which Care New England has partnered with the University of Rhode Island through the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program grant. During the webinar, Dr. Fulton and Roach will highlight the concept of dementia as a terminal illness, future policy and research directions, understanding decisions faced by patients and families as dementia progresses, utilizing new evidence to better support decision making, and maximizing quality of life for the patient and families through applying advanced care planning and goals of care discussions. Continuing education (CE) credits are offered for several health disciplines.

For more information and to register, visit <http://web.uri.edu/rigec/workshops-and-events/1540-2/>.

## Anchor ED Program recognized by the Addiction Policy Forum

Recently, the Addiction Policy Forum announced that The Providence Center’s Anchor ED program would be featured in its “[Focus on Innovation](#)” series, which recognizes programs that contribute to a comprehensive strategy addressing addiction. Programs selected for the series are nominated by key stakeholders, community members and/or experts in the fields of addiction, and selected by the Forum’s advisory board.



AnchorED connects people who have been admitted to emergency rooms for an opioid-related overdose with trained peer recovery coaches who can talk to them about recovery support services and help them avoid another overdose. The program started in one hospital in 2014 and is now in every hospital in Rhode Island.

“Anchor ED is proud to be recognized for our innovative approaches,” said Program Manager George O’Toole. “We hope to continue our momentum, improving our program, to help meet the needs of all the people, families and communities affected by the epidemic of opioid overdoses.”

The Addiction Policy Forum is a national nonprofit organization that seeks to elevate awareness around addiction.

## VNA staff participate in skills lab

CNAs and home health aides at the VNA of Care New England participated in a skills lab at Kent Hospital last week. The purpose of the skills lab is to assess the competence of staff by observing them demonstrating skills at stations.

The stations are set up for demonstration of personal care, vital signs, urinary catheter care, colostomy care, transferring patients in lifts, safety and security in the home, bag technique and hand hygiene. The observers and educators are registered nurses and physical therapists.



*Pictured here are Kim Wegrzyn, home health aide; Susan Andler, physical therapist; and Annica In, home health aide.*



## \$2.9-million grant supports study of suicide risk assessment



A multidisciplinary team from Butler Hospital, Brown University and the University of Michigan have come together to advance screening capabilities for suicide risk. The group received a \$2.9-million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to conduct a five-year research study utilizing innovative smartphone technology. Using the smartphone app PRIORI (Predicting Individual Outcomes for Rapid Intervention), designed by the team at the University of Michigan, researchers will record and analyze changes in speech patterns to identify how they relate to changes in suicide risk.

“It is our hope that results of this study will have implications for both prevention and early intervention of suicide, and that the smartphone technology will provide methods for monitoring patients’ suicide risk over time,” said Heather Schatten, PhD, a research psychologist at Butler and assistant professor of research at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. One of three principal investigators for the study, Dr. Schatten is joined by a multidisciplinary team that includes research psychologists, psychiatrists, computer scientists and engineers, and a quantitative scientist.

Although there are many known risk factors for suicide, the majority of individuals who have these risk factors do not go on to attempt suicide—pointing to the importance of identifying new strategic risk factors for suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

## The connection between obesity and the heart

Charles Eaton, MD, director of the Center for Primary Care and Prevention at Memorial Hospital, has spent his career studying heart health and the steps every person should take to protect their heart’s health. Eaton discusses the challenges of weight and heart health, including an explanation of why it’s healthier to stay moderately overweight rather than yo-yo dieting up and down drastically on our [Care New England Youtube channel](#).



Join us on [Facebook](#) as we share heart-healthy tips and information throughout National Heart Month in February. 

