

**For Immediate Release:**

Jan. 25, 2010

**Contact:** Ian Cordes, Director of Operations  
(561) 659-2167, [icordes@bellsouth.net](mailto:icordes@bellsouth.net)  
[www.fadona.org](http://www.fadona.org)

## **FADONA Leads PACT Initiative to Reduce Pressure Ulcers**

— Statewide initiative is consistent with FADONA's 'Principles of Excellence.'

West Palm Beach, Fla. — Florida Association Directors of Nursing Administration/LTC (FADONA) President Bonnie Cruz is pleased to announce that FADONA has been selected by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to lead the state in a pressure-ulcer reduction initiative using Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) "PACT," or Positive Action-Critical Thinking, which focuses on developing collaborative relationships with health care providers with the specific goal of improving health-care outcomes for the general public.

Pressure ulcers are painful and serious conditions that are often preventable. Treating them is very costly; research indicates that the cost of treating one pressure sore may range from \$500 to \$40,000. Recent "Present on Admission" regulations declare that treatment of certain conditions (including pressure ulcers) not present on admission and otherwise acquired in the hospital, will not be reimbursed by Medicare. Thus, health care providers play an integral role in redesigning health care and reimbursement to benefit providers as well as patients.

A pilot project was initiated in 2007 in Dade County, Florida, with the goal of developing strategies for improving communication between hospitals and nursing homes to determine best practices for pressure ulcer reduction. Based on Minimum Data Set (MDS) data, the project notes the existence of pressure ulcers regardless of avoidability during the nursing home stay. Therefore, it is critical that the entire health care continuum (hospital, nursing home, and the community) work together to improve these outcomes. Project results showed that improvements could be made in developing communication tools at transferring hospitals and at nursing homes to share resident status and facilitate swift interventions for at-risk individuals.

Pressure-ulcer reduction is consistent with FADONA's "Principles of Excellence for Florida Directors of Nursing," established August 6, 2009, to foster self-appraisal and continuous performance improvement. Its core values — collaboration, goal setting, direction of quality improvement processes using evidence-based performance improvement strategies, and creation of a culture that promotes high-quality clinical care — are integral to pressure-ulcer reduction.

The overall goal is to reduce pressure ulcers 1% per year over the next three years. Best practices developed at the local level will be shared at our annual conventions. In the next few months, we will establish specific short-term goals for gathering statewide data.

On Thursday, Jan. 14, FADONA's Think Tank, under the chairmanship of FADONA's Immediate Past President Cathy Ates, and co-chaired by FADONA President Bonnie Cruz, convened a Steering Committee workshop to develop a strategy for the PACT Initiative. Also present at this important meeting were Kim Streit, vice president of Research & Information with the Florida Hospital Association; Dr. Carl Suchar, chairman of the board, Florida Medical Directors Association; Dr. Jennifer Nooney, associate director, Florida Center for Nursing; Polly Weaver, bureau chief, AHCA; and senior management representatives from Airamid Health Management, Cypress Health Care, Greystone Healthcare Management, Northport Health Services, Opis Management Resources, Sea Crest Health Care, Senior Care Group, and Southern Health Care Management.

FADONA's "Principles of Excellence" may be found at [www.fadona.org](http://www.fadona.org). For additional information or questions, please contact **Ian Cordes** at [icordes@bellsouth.net](mailto:icordes@bellsouth.net).

###

The Florida Association Directors of Nursing Administration/LTC, otherwise known as FADONA, is a statewide coalition of professional, administrative long-term-care (LTC) nurses holding director, assistant director of nursing (ADON/DON) or other administrative nursing roles. FADONA is a state chapter of the National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration in Long-Term Care, and its primary goal is to ensure that the residents entrusted to their members enjoy the highest-possible quality of life while receiving the finest-quality care available.